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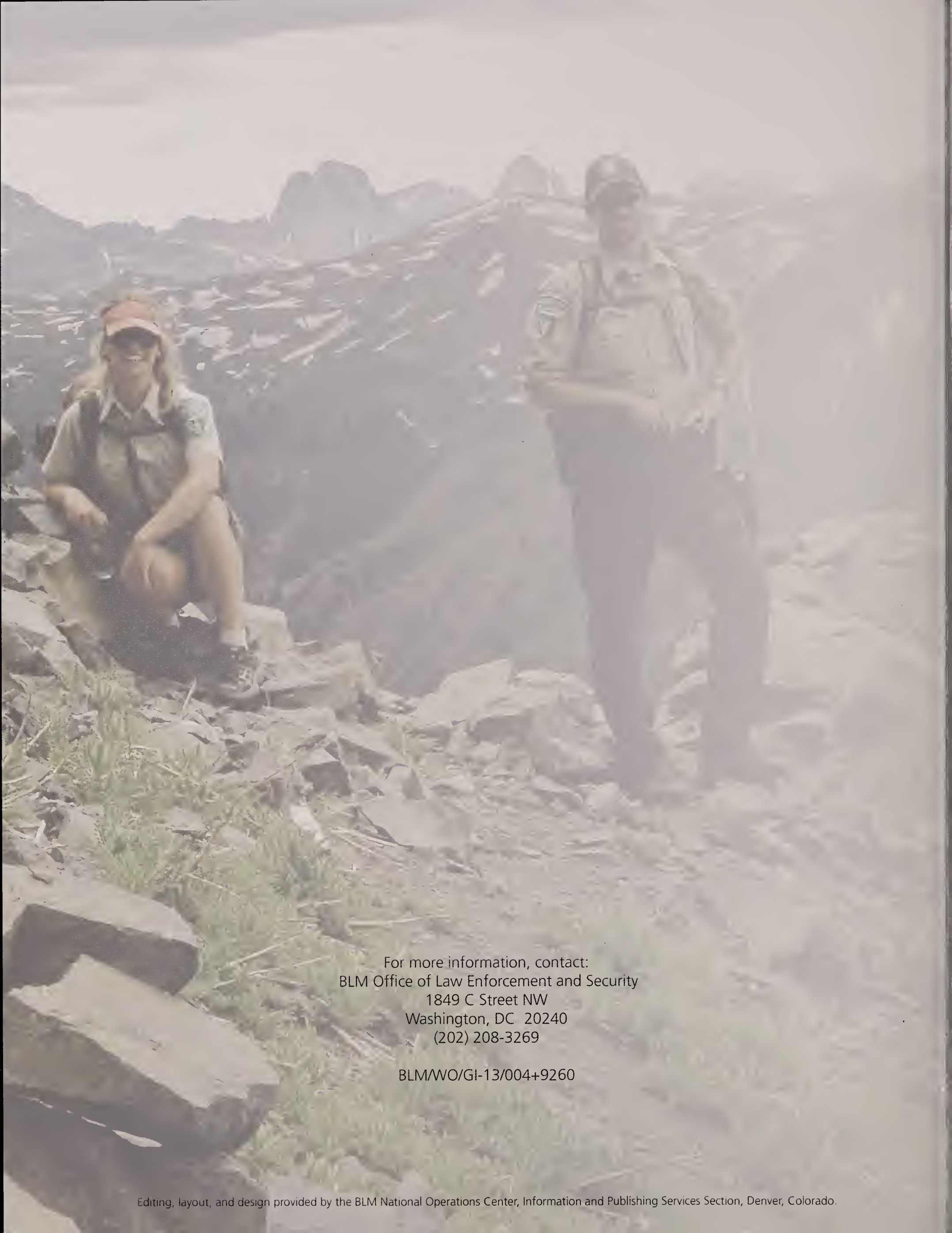


Law Enforcement

YEAR-END REVIEW

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Director's Message Salvatore Lauro

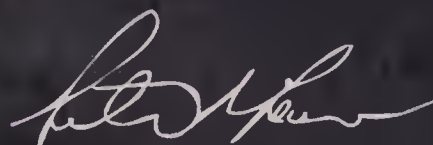
With responsibility for more than 245 million surface acres and an additional 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers more public lands than any other federal agency in the United States. In keeping with its multiple-use mission, the BLM manages these lands for a variety of commercial and recreational uses, while also striving to protect the wide array of natural, cultural, and historical resources these lands contain. The roughly 315 special agents, rangers, and program staff that make up the BLM's law enforcement program play an integral role in supporting this effort.

Throughout 2012, the dedicated men and women serving in the BLM's law enforcement program undertook a wide range of enforcement and investigative activities in support of the BLM's mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. These law enforcement activities included reducing resource impacts to National Landscape Conservation System lands near the border with Mexico by deterring drug and human smuggling activities; mitigating environmental damage and public safety concerns by suppressing large-scale marijuana cultivation operations; preserving critical national energy interests by investigating crimes against oil and gas infrastructure and the nonpayment of royalties; protecting cultural heritage and scientific concerns by pursuing the theft and trafficking of Native American artifacts, human remains, and paleontological resources; reducing resource damage and forage depletion by addressing livestock trespass; facilitating agency efforts to manage wild horse populations while combating the unlawful removal and sale of wild horses; securing taxpayer and government interests by preventing internal fraud and abuse; and addressing an ever increasing number of recreation-related resource protection and public safety concerns resulting from population growth within the urban centers adjacent to public lands.

Since coming to the BLM in June 2011, this wide range of enforcement and investigative activities undertaken by BLM law enforcement personnel serves to regularly remind me of the unique enforcement challenges created by the BLM's multiple-use mission. In the face of those challenges, the hard work, resourcefulness, and professionalism of BLM law enforcement personnel are evident each and every day. They do an amazing job under what can, at times, be difficult circumstances, and I thank them for all their efforts.

In addition, given the vast expanses of public lands we administer, our law enforcement personnel work in partnership with various federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. These cooperative law enforcement relationships play an invaluable role in protecting public lands and the visitors who use them. I am extremely grateful for the efforts of each of our law enforcement partners, and I look forward to continuing our work with them in the future.

Lastly, on behalf of the BLM law enforcement program and all of the dedicated BLM employees who work toward our multiple-use goals, I thank the American people for their continued support in managing and protecting public lands.



Salvatore Lauro, Director
BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security



Deputy Director of Operations

Jeanne Van Lancker

Due to the BLM's unique multiple-use mission, the many uses of our public lands must occur in concert with each other and occur in such a way that our public lands are fully sustained, not only for present enjoyment but also for future generations. The BLM mission is only becoming more complex with growing populations, increased urban encroachment, and increased use of the public lands.

The responsibility and breadth of activities occurring on our public lands is simply stunning. We cover it all from A to Z—archaeological artifacts to zinc mining. And in between, we have off-highway vehicle use, special recreation permits, wild horses and burros, energy production, paleontological artifacts, and much more. With every use of BLM public lands, there is almost always a misuse or abuse that is the responsibility of BLM law enforcement to address. In this publication, we describe the vast and diverse caseload our law enforcement officers encounter on a reoccurring basis.

Coupled with and complicating the diversity of our mission is the fact that each BLM law enforcement officer has such a large area of responsibility. We average in excess of 820,000 acres per law enforcement officer—more than any other land management agency in the United States. And in some locations, the area of responsibility can be as high as a staggering 25 million acres per law enforcement officer.

One key area that remains a crucial challenge for us is the effects of southwestern border traffic—that of human and drug trafficking. Securing the border and preventing human and drug trafficking are not our primary mission, but the impacts from this criminal activity on our public lands and our natural resources are a primary concern. We are proactive, dynamic, and unrelenting and will not accept anything other than healthy and diverse public lands that are safe for the public to enjoy.

Even though the use of marijuana has seemed to follow a trend of increased public acceptance—to include a few states that have chosen to legalize it—the production, trafficking, and use of marijuana are still against federal law. We will remain steadfast in our enforcement efforts and will proceed with more vigor than ever. The harm that the production of marijuana causes to our environment is undeniable. Drug trafficking organizations remove natural vegetation, divert streams, and use hazardous chemicals and poisons to fertilize these crops. In addition, crop encampments are guarded with firearms to protect this lucrative business product. This creates an unnecessary risk to the safety of public lands visitors.

BLM law enforcement plays a crucial role in the three-pronged National Drug Control Strategy: prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. Our law enforcement role in this strategy is identifying, targeting, disrupting, and dismantling drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. We play a vital role in the large and complex world of transnational drug trafficking, and our law enforcement officers are making a true impact.

We continue to rely on our very dedicated corps of rangers and special agents, our partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, volunteers, BLM employees, and the general public to assist us in advancing our mission. Thank you to everyone who cares about the livelihood, wellness, and safety of our public lands, which will be enjoyed for generations and generations to come.



Deputy Director of Policy, Programs, and Budget Felicia Probert

Deputy Director of Policy, Programs, and Budget Felicia Probert retired in July 2012 after more than 30 years of federal service, 26 of which were spent with the BLM's law enforcement program in California and Idaho. Before her career with the BLM, Probert obtained a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and then served as a park ranger with the National Park Service at various locations.

In 1986, Probert was hired as a law enforcement ranger with the BLM in California. She served there with the Ridgecrest Field Office and California Desert District in the roles of Assistant District Ranger and District Staff Ranger. During this time, she played a role in expanding the ranger program and served as the incident commander for operations regarding unauthorized motor vehicle races through critical habitat areas.

In 1992, Probert joined the Office of Law Enforcement and Security staff in Boise, Idaho, as the project manager of Lawnet—the first automated law enforcement incident reporting system in the BLM and the first in the Department of the Interior (DOI) to be compliant with national reporting standards. Her leadership included all facets of establishment, development, implementation, and support of this major contractual product.

In 1998, Probert became the second person to serve as the National Chief Ranger in the BLM. She served in this capacity for 5 years. The BLM continued to recognize Probert's talent and leadership and promoted her to the position of Assistant Deputy Director in 2003. During this time, she conducted a comprehensive update of the BLM's law enforcement policies and handbooks, established the first onsite BLM representative position for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and led the development and implementation of the ranger Field Training and Evaluation Program.

In 2010, Probert was promoted again, this time to the Deputy Director of Policy, Programs, and Budget. In this position, she served as the senior-level manager supervising the BLM's law enforcement program headquarters staff in the oversight and leadership of bureauwide law enforcement policy and procedures, training development and coordination, and strategic planning and execution of the annual budget appropriation.

Probert plans on enjoying her retirement by having fun doing all of the things she hasn't been doing for the last 30 years or so.



Chief, Office of Professional Responsibility

Thomas Huegerich

I worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Baltimore Division for more than 12 years, and most notably, my last 3 years were spent as the Senior Resident Agent, covering western Maryland and working the broad spectrum of FBI investigations—everything from violent crime to terrorism. It was an awesome job, but I was also drawn to my earlier career as a state park ranger and forester working out West. I was lucky enough to accept a position with the BLM in 2009 as the Chief of Internal Affairs in Boise, Idaho. I can say unequivocally the BLM has provided some of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my law enforcement career.

We were succeeding in working a blend of traditional criminal and administrative investigations in Internal Affairs, but in 2012, we recognized the need to diversify and expand our mission. In 2012, Internal Affairs was no longer just "IA," but became the Office of Professional Responsibility, which encompasses three major programs: inspections, medical standards, and internal affairs investigations.

The evaluations and inspections program is a necessary function designed to promote effectiveness and efficiency of BLM law enforcement elements. We have implemented an inspection review process using a small team of rangers, special agents, and managers who will ultimately travel to every BLM region over the next 3 years and maintain a 3-year cycle thereafter. The inspection team will ensure our professional law enforcement community is living within the expectations of the public and, of course, will ensure our officers are abiding by the expectations set forth in our law enforcement general orders. Inspections will bring transparency to the BLM, which will promote and strengthen the public's trust in all of us.

The Office of Professional Responsibility also oversees the law enforcement medical standards program. In 2012, this new program conducted more than 60 medical exams and reviews, which establish the minimum requirements for medical fitness levels. These exams and reviews ensure applicants and incumbents of arduous law enforcement positions are capable of performing the essential functions of a law enforcement officer in a safe and efficient manner. This program works closely with managers, safety officers, and employee relation specialists to ensure the BLM has a state-of-the-art medical program to safeguard our law enforcement officers.

This past year has been highlighted with several complex investigations in the Office of Professional Responsibility, including felony theft cases that were successfully prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office. I was proud to see a team of agents and rangers working collaboratively to investigate an employee for committing felony theft with a government credit card. No doubt the financial loss to the American taxpayers could have continued for years had it not been for the diligent work of men and women in BLM law enforcement.

I know our staff will continue to exhibit professionalism in defending the reputations of our colleagues and exhibit integrity in all aspects of their work so the American people will continue to place trust in all of us to do the right thing.



Another year as the Office of Law Enforcement and Security's National Chief Ranger is behind me, and it was, again, a busy year. The rangers in the field worked hard to protect the public lands and its visitors in incredibly diverse environments while encountering incidents that ranged from archaeological crimes and grave robbing to drunk driving and drug smuggling. From northern Alaska to southern Arizona and from the deep cold of the northern winter to the heat of the desert summer, their dedication resulted in our public lands being a better and safer place.

Over the years, I have had numerous opportunities to reflect back on the ranger program and compare current conditions to what we have experienced in the past. Overwhelmingly, what I consistently see is success in protecting the public lands and its visitors.

In the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area in California, which is always a great place to ride off-highway vehicles and sand toys of all types, crime rates have plummeted, and the area hasn't been plagued with some of the issues of previous years. I see this as truly a testament to the El Centro Field Office and rangers across the BLM that regularly work the area during high-use weekends.

In southern Arizona along the U.S.-Mexico border, the drive to smuggle narcotics and illegal aliens is never ending, but our rangers that work the Sonoran Desert and Ironwood Forest National Monuments—and the rangers from across the BLM that augment the local staffs during high-intensity patrol periods—are keeping the areas safer and damage to a minimum. Their efforts to interdict smuggling operations while reducing impacts to our natural resources are to be commended.

To fully appreciate the accomplishments of the ranger program during the Burning Man festival in Nevada, one has to keep in mind that the average BLM ranger does not choose his or her profession with the goal of being a city cop. Rangers generally choose their profession with the goal of being a law enforcement officer that has the primary mission of protecting the natural resources and the public that enjoys them. During Burning Man, our rangers are suddenly thrust into the role of being a beat cop in a "city" of 60,000 people—with all the issues of a city, but one that is in the middle of a remote

national conservation area with little infrastructure to rely on. When Burning Man's Black Rock City is in full swing, rangers' time is spent interdicting drug crime and responding to sexual assaults and missing persons cases instead of responding to cactus theft and mining trespasses. If that's not diversity, I don't know what is!

Our K-9 program has matured into 10 quality teams who are all working hard at their jobs. Deployments, which include the use of the dogs for actions such as protecting their handlers and sniffing for drugs, have increased 600 percent from 2 years ago.

This year, we have seen seasoned rangers move on to well-earned retirements and new rangers enter the ranks to replace them. The cycle is forever sustaining, and I hope that the next generation of rangers can live up to the accomplishments of those that have come before them.





In the past, the Eagle Lake Field Office's law enforcement presence struggled with a poor reputation in the local community. Ranger Darrin Von Helf helped turn this around and reestablished professional and respectful relationships with other agencies, the public, and Eagle Lake Field Office staff. His knowledge of law enforcement and his practical and common sense approach reestablished the Eagle Lake Field Office as an integral part of the community and as a valued complement to the BLM's national, state, and local mission.

During Von Helf's short tenure at the Eagle Lake Field Office, he has rebuilt relationships with other agencies. He regularly interacts with other law enforcement agencies at meetings and discusses crime patterns and cooperative assistance between agencies. Von Helf has been recognized for being available when called upon and for his willingness to work with other agencies.

Von Helf conducts patrols along sensitive resource areas, which are often in remote, rugged terrain. Communication is critical to successfully patrolling and managing BLM land. Therefore, Von Helf helped establish a positive working relationship with the Eagle Lake Field Office staff. Von Helf frequently solicits information from the program leads in the field office and consults with the recreation planners in the field office, seeking advice and observational information from the areas they manage.

After the completion of a marijuana operation, Von Helf helped organize a cleanup of the grow site, displaying a significant amount of communication and coordination with the field office staff. First, Von Helf organized a site visit for the staff. He encouraged program leads from each resource specialty to assess resource-specific damages and to develop rehabilitation plans. Cleanup operations are typically expensive, and since these sites tend to be remote, they usually require the use of helicopters to haul out the loads of trash and debris. Von Helf was able to organize the cleanup of the grow site using field office staff and BLM mustangs. This successful operation added no additional cost outside of regular staff salary and vehicle use and was estimated to have saved the field office approximately \$15,000.

In 2012, Von Helf helped bring a balanced approach to the enforcement of laws and regulations. He issued numerous resource-related violation notices, which included violations of operating vehicles off route, littering, trash dumping, illegal wood gathering, and disobeying fire restrictions. He also successfully identified and obtained a conviction on an individual who stole government equipment from a BLM fire engine. In terms of outreach and education, he helped educate members of the public by explaining various rules and regulations.

In addition to his traditional ranger duties, Von Helf participates in many other important roles. For example, he is a TASER instructor and armorer and has been requested by BLM rangers and other law enforcement agencies to assist in their training and maintenance. Von Helf continues to be a field training officer—training seven different rangers throughout the fiscal year. He is also a member of the BLM Law Enforcement Honor Guard.

The BLM is extremely pleased to select Ranger Darrin Von Helf as the 2012 Ranger of the Year.



Special Agent of the Year

In 2012, Special Agent Scott Swanson pursued a variety of complex investigations that made a true impact to the Region 3 law enforcement program. Swanson's skills, work ethic, leadership, and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty have greatly benefitted the entire program. He has been recognized by many federal, state, and local law enforcement partners as someone who exemplifies professionalism and continually strives to work collaboratively towards enforcing federal land management laws and regulations.

To start, Swanson led an investigation named Operation Buckaroo. In this case, two suspects contacted the BLM in an attempt to purchase 64 wild horses they claimed would be used for breeding stock. Swanson and a BLM wild horse and burro specialist determined the suspects actually intended to transport the wild horses to Mexico for slaughter. Swanson coordinated investigative efforts with other federal and state agencies and planned a large-scale surveillance and takedown operation. Operation Buckaroo resulted in felony convictions, and all horses were safely returned to the BLM. The outcome of Operation Buckaroo received national-level programmatic review and resulted in substantive procedural changes in hopes to prevent this type of situation from reoccurring.

Swanson also worked diligently with BLM staff to combat violations of special recreation permit programs. He had multiple cases involving individuals or groups who either failed to obtain the requisite permit or were operating outside an existing permit. These included hunting and guiding outfitters going into a wildlife management unit, professional mountain bike riders riding through pristine wilderness areas, and a company conducting motorcycle and snowmobile tours of large groups across federal land without regard for protected sites, designated wilderness areas, and boundaries.

Throughout 2012, Swanson and BLM outdoor recreation staff worked together to update valid permit holder information for law enforcement officers throughout Utah. As a result of their efforts, the law enforcement field personnel in Utah have accurate information readily available, which helps them conduct their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

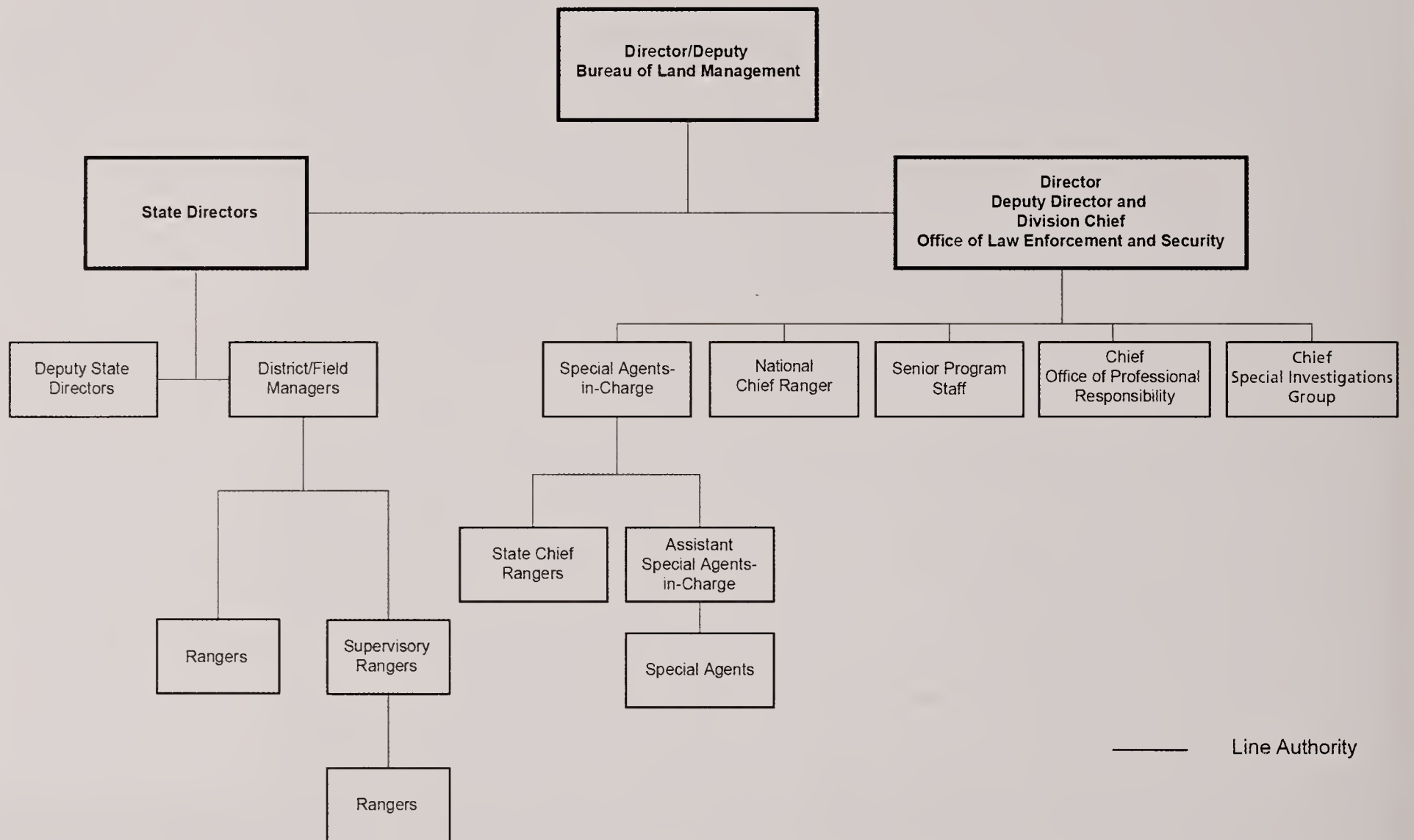
Swanson rounded out his portfolio of investigative work for the year with cases involving a restricted person purchasing firearms and individuals with illegal drugs, and he played a key role in an investigation involving the theft of American Indian artifacts. Additionally, he played a key role in a multiagency investigation involving the theft and sale of minerals harvested on BLM-administered lands and sold both domestically and internationally.

Swanson also currently serves as a defensive tactics instructor. He served as an instructor for the 2012 Introduction to Resource Protection class where he educated newly hired BLM law enforcement personnel about wild horse and burro investigations, as well as defensive tactics.

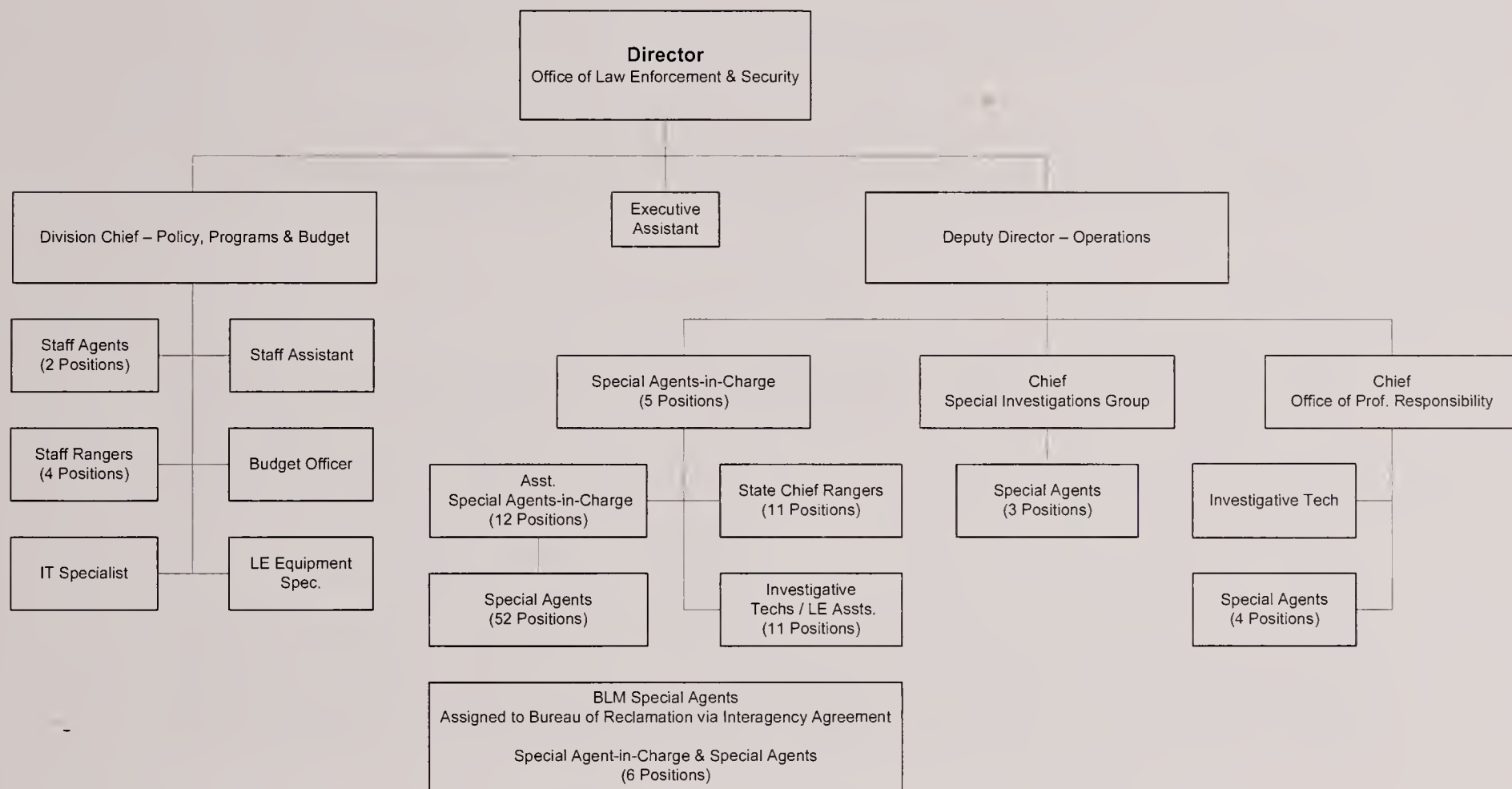
The BLM is extremely pleased to select Special Agent Scott Swanson as the 2012 Special Agent of the Year.



Bureau of Land Management Law Enforcement Organization



Office of Law Enforcement and Security WO-120 Organization Chart



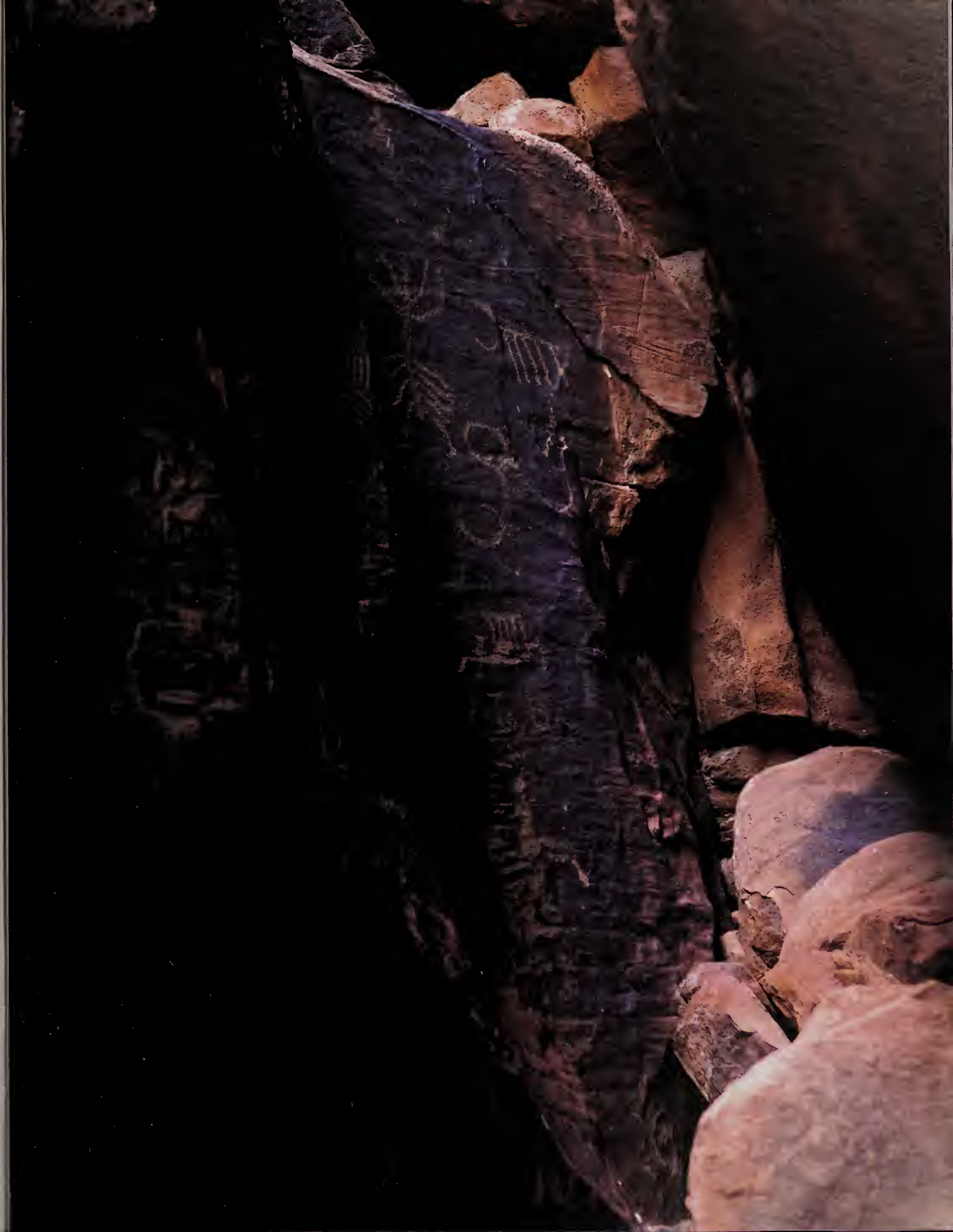
Fiscal Year 2012 BLM Law Enforcement Statistics

In fiscal year 2012, 23,544 law enforcement incidents were reported;
11,093 of those resulted in enforcement action¹.

Category	Count
Thefts	396
Theft Enforcement Actions	133
ARPA ² or Paleontological	61
Minerals	21
Timber	135
All Other Natural Resources	31
Vandalism	865
Vandalism Enforcement Actions	198
ARPA or Paleontological	79
All Other Natural Resources	584
Fire Incidents (Non-Arson)	933
Fire Incident Actions (Non-Arson)	535
Fire Incidents (Arson)	47
Fire Enforcement Actions	7
Off-Highway Vehicles	4,067
Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Actions	2,715
Driving Under the Influence	147
Search and Rescue	215
Drug	1,920
Drug Enforcement Actions	997
Marijuana Sale and Manufacture	180
Marijuana Possession	1,125
Marijuana Seizures (BLM land only):	
Processed	8,158 lbs
Plants	156,014
Wild Horse and Burro	118
Hazardous Materials	76
Hazardous Materials Enforcement Actions	0
Occupancy Trespass	235
Occupancy Trespass Enforcement Actions	5
Assaults	
Law Enforcement Officers	12
Government Employees (Non-Law Enforcement)	21
Public	21

¹ Enforcement action = written warning, citation, criminal complaint, arrest, grand jury indictment, or administrative/civil remedy

² Archaeological Resources Protection Act



REGION 1



REGION 1

Region 1 administers 15.2 million acres of public land in California and 1.6 million acres of public land in northwestern Nevada. Most of these lands are located within 50 miles of major urban areas and encompass many ecosystems. Mountain ranges, chaparral lands, sand dunes, sagebrush plains, high-elevation desert, rushing mountain rivers, statuesque redwood trees, riparian oak forests, wetlands, and the rugged Pacific coastline offer exceptional recreational endeavors, renewable energy sources, oil and natural gas, cattle grazing, and wildlife habitat for more than 800 species of plants and animals.

The Region 1 law enforcement program includes three districts with 15 field offices. Under the leadership of Special Agent-in-Charge Laurel Pistel, Region 1's 75 rangers, 17 special agents, and 2 support staff enforce a wide range of laws and regulations in the prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes affecting public lands resources to support the BLM's multiple-use mission.

In 2012, Region 1 continued its focus on combating the large-scale cultivation of marijuana by drug trafficking organizations, which resulted in many noteworthy successes. In addition, rangers and agents worked extensively on recreation-related offenses, wild horse and burro violations, wildland fire investigations, violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and a number of special enforcement operations.

Tide Turns on Marijuana Production

Public land suffers the effects of illegal marijuana growth long after the crop is harvested. Marijuana growers remove natural vegetation to make room for the marijuana, cut down trees to allow sunlight into the site, and divert streams from their natural path to irrigate the land. Marijuana growers also introduce chemicals and poisons to fertilize the crops, and they use rodenticides and insecticides indiscriminately, harming the land, wildlife, and waterways. Some of the most pristine public land in California is being scarred in this way and cannot recover without costly human intervention.

In addition, many of these sites have encampments with workers who oftentimes possess firearms. Hunters, fishermen, recreational users, researchers, and BLM employees have been harassed or threatened by armed individuals. In recent years, two officer-involved shootings occurred in grow sites located within Region 1 during law enforcement special operations.

Currently, there is an overall reduction of identified and eradicated grow sites on BLM and all California public lands. From a high of more than 700,000 marijuana plants eradicated from Region 1 public lands in 2009 and 2010 to a new 8-year low of about 100,000 eradicated plants in 2012, an 85 percent reduction has been cautiously noted. Similarly, during the 2012 outdoor marijuana cultivation season, about one million plants were eradicated from public and private lands in California compared to a high of greater

than four million in 2010, an overall reduction of 75 percent. It is hoped that the marijuana plant count will continue to decline due, in part, to the unwavering investigative vigilance of Region 1 rangers, special agents, and partner law enforcement agencies and task forces.



Eradication and Reclamation of Lands Impacted by Marijuana Cultivation

Marijuana plant eradication on BLM public lands in Region 1 is largely accomplished by the Cannabis Eradication and Reclamation Team (CERT), which was formerly known as the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP). This multiagency team has carried out successful operations for nearly 30 years during the summer outdoor marijuana cultivation season.

The team has a new strategy of full suppression, which includes not only the eradication of the illicitly grown marijuana plants, but also the reclamation of the impacted lands. Rangers, special agents, and BLM resource staff completed more than 40 grow site reclamation operations, either as part of the statewide eradication effort or independently as part of the BLM's own site cleanup efforts. Thousands of pounds of trash, hazardous materials, and infrastructure were removed from impacted lands to prevent further damage to the environment. The independent reclamation operations were conducted in cooperation with the California National Guard, state and local agencies, and youth and volunteer organizations through special funding provided by the BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security.

Criminal Prosecutions

Region 1 special agents developed an interagency and collaborative approach for detecting, investigating, and seeking prosecution for those criminal groups and organizations who illegally produce marijuana on public lands. Special agents are assigned to multiagency marijuana investigative teams and Drug Enforcement Administration task forces in the cities of Redding, Santa Rosa, Fresno, San Diego, and El Centro and liaison with narcotic task forces and investigative teams in dozens of counties on a frequent basis to share intelligence and conduct investigations. In 2012, seven defendants were federally indicted for the manufacture of marijuana on public lands as a direct result of BLM investigations.

In northern California, three defendants were also charged with willfully causing injury or depredation to federal property as a result of their marijuana cultivation activities in the King Range National Conservation Area in northern California. In response to the charges, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California Melinda Haag said, "The environmental charges here underscore the damage to the environment posed by the large-scale cultivation of marijuana on public lands in California. The environmental harm associated with these illegal grows is

wreaking havoc on these pristine ecological resources that the federal government is charged with protecting for the public. We will continue to prosecute those who use our public lands in northern California to illegally cultivate marijuana at the expense of the environment."

In southern California, a 2-year investigation, led by a BLM special agent assigned to a Drug Enforcement Administration Narcotics Task Force in San Diego, successfully concluded with the effective disruption and ultimate dismantling of a drug trafficking organization impacting public lands that produced and distributed marijuana throughout California, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. Operation Mountain High involved multiple Title III wiretap court orders and culminated with the simultaneous execution of 12 federal search warrants, 29 arrests, 6 federal indictments of principle targets, and the seizure of 200,000 marijuana plants, 2,000 pounds of processed marijuana bud, and assets worth more than \$750,000.

Throughout July and August of 2012, a number of Region 1 rangers and agents participated in Operation Mountain Sweep, an enforcement effort that involved law enforcement activity on public lands in Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington and was responsible for the eradication of 726,000 marijuana plants worth more than \$1.45 billion. In California, Operation Mountain Sweep involved law enforcement operations on public lands in dozens of counties. Law enforcement officers eradicated more than 130 marijuana grow sites on public lands—at least 540,000 marijuana plants—and removed huge amounts of trash, miles of irrigation line, and many pounds of fertilizer and other hazardous chemicals and poisons.

As part of Operation Mountain Sweep in California, 26 defendants were federally indicted. All of the defendants were arrested during operations at marijuana grow sites on public lands. Fourteen firearms were also seized in the course of those arrests. Operation Mountain Sweep was carried out by federal agents and officers from the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state and local law enforcement agencies.

Patrols on Energy Development Areas

Region 1 law enforcement rangers spent a great deal of time patrolling public lands, which included monitoring wind, solar, and geothermal energy development and transmission projects

in various stages, from permitting, to construction, and beyond, as part of the DOI and BLM's commitment to America's clean energy future. These lands must be monitored to ensure sensitive natural and cultural resources are not adversely impacted by unauthorized use of utility maintenance access points and surrounding areas.

As a result of the increased workload related to renewable energy and transmission project development, the California Desert District staffed a permanent ranger position in eastern San Diego County. This position was funded through an agreement with the San Diego Gas and Electric Company and is collocated with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The ranger and his K-9 partner are primarily responsible for patrolling those portions of the 117-mile Sunrise Powerlink high-voltage power transmission line that are located on BLM-managed public lands in Imperial and San Diego Counties. This mitigation stipulation serves as an example for all permitted utility-scale renewable energy and transmission projects in the California desert.

Security for Public Land Visitors

The El Centro Field Office hosted four national off-highway vehicle events that coincided with high-visitation weekends at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. In total, more than 400 BLM, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, and California Highway Patrol officers and emergency medical services and visitor services staff supported the four special events, as they have for more than a decade, with great success.

The Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Year's, and Presidents Day weekend law enforcement special events, with a combined

visitation of approximately 440,000 off-highway vehicle recreation enthusiasts, resulted in the issuance of 3,188 citations and 136 arrests, of which 52 were driving under the influence cases. In addition, officers and emergency medical services staff responded to 244 calls for medical aid, of which more than 100 required air evacuation or ground ambulance transportation to local hospitals or regional trauma centers.

Agreements and Special Operations Participation

Region 1 renewed 14 memorandums of understanding with county sheriff's offices that grant state peace officer authority to BLM law enforcement officers while they are performing official duties; this brings the statewide total to 32. Region 1 also established a cross-designation agreement with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region to enhance protection of the natural and cultural resources on the public lands administered by both agencies.

Region 1 rangers and special agents completed 93 special operations assignments within their areas of responsibility, including the coordination of dignitary protection with the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Park Police at the dedication of the Fort Ord and Cesar Chavez National Monuments. Rangers and agents also provided security at renewable energy project public meetings and events and participated in numerous arrest, search warrant, human and electronic surveillance, reconnaissance, marijuana eradication and site reclamation, and undercover operations activities, which required extensive planning and coordination.



REGION 2



REGION 2 Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon/Washington

Special Agent-in-Charge Gary Mannino oversees the law enforcement program of Region 2, which is responsible for the law enforcement of BLM public lands in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This was a very productive year for Region 2, as the men and women who operate in the field as commissioned law enforcement personnel, as well as the support personnel assigned to the region, came together and accomplished significant results that support the BLM mission. Throughout the year, these men and women continued to represent the agency in the most professional manner, displaying a tremendous commitment to the resources they protect.

ALASKA

How Rangers and Agents Cover an Expansive Area

Managing BLM public lands in Alaska continues to be a challenge for the three field staff rangers assigned to the state. In Alaska, the BLM manages 75 million surface acres that are spread across a geographic area more than twice the size of Texas. Rangers patrol by trucks, boats, fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, all-terrain vehicles, and snow machines in all types of environments and temperatures. The ranger staff will soon increase by two as the Anchorage Field Office and Central Yukon Field Office add field staff ranger pilots to the team. These new hires are fixed-wing aircraft pilots and will greatly expand the reach of the Alaska ranger program.

With such an expansive, roadless landmass, law-abiding citizens and offenders alike have adopted the airplane as a favored tool of access to remote public lands. In 2012, the Office of Law Enforcement and Security expanded its aviation program to Fairbanks with a second agent/pilot and the purchase of a Top Cub airplane to supplement its Anchorage-based Cessna 206. These actions continue to streamline point-to-point law enforcement transportation, enhance operational security on sensitive missions, and foster the development of a network of village reporting liaisons. To date, these aircraft have flown more than 600 patrol hours and 70,000 miles in support of investigations involving archaeological theft, illegal outfitting, unauthorized mining, theft of government property, and violations of the Clean Water Act and Lacey Act.

Management of a Diverse Caseload

In 2012, Alaska rangers participated in search and rescue missions and investigated a wide variety of violations in the areas of federal subsistence hunting, mining compliance, vandalism, and destruction of natural resources. One search and rescue mission, in particular, was a harrowing incident in which the quick thinking and heroic actions of the Eastern Interior Field Office Ranger Jonathan Priday saved the life of a critically injured man. Illegal mining operations continued to present a significant challenge to law enforcement, and vandalism continued to be an issue for remote government facilities and property. Rangers participated in a variety of search and arrest warrants, working with BLM special agents, as well as a diverse assortment of other federal and state agencies.



Complex Investigation Concluded

This year saw the conclusion of a long-term, complex investigation that began in 2008. This investigation involved the unauthorized commercial use of BLM lands within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and uncovered two suspects conspiring to steal archaeological and paleontological resources as part of an illegal outfitting and guiding operation. Culminating in September 2012, this investigation yielded successful prosecution results and, in addition to paleontological and archaeological crimes, revealed serious criminal enterprises relating to special permit violations (illegal outfitting), American Recovery and Reinvestment Act fraud, State of Alaska permanent fund dividend fraud, and receipt/possession of child pornography.

The investigation resulted in three federal grand jury indictments, six felony charges, two felony convictions, one misdemeanor conviction, and in excess of \$140,000 in fines and restitution. Additionally, this is believed to be the first successful criminal prosecution citing the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009.

IDAHO

Successful Investigations

Idaho's investigative program completed several successful investigations in 2012. Special agents investigated a diversity of cases, such as human-caused wildland fires, marijuana cultivation, employee threats, hazardous material violations, and employee embezzlement of government funds. Idaho agents also continued to provide support to other regions by detailing at the Burning Man festival in Nevada, the Imperial Sand Dunes in California, and cattle impound events and by participating in search warrant operations related to marijuana cultivation.

Special agents continued to support BLM-Idaho's strong fire trespass program. The 2012 fire season resulted in 371 fires, with 246 of those determined human-caused. Agents continued to support the fire program by investigating and presenting some of the more complex and higher cost fire cases to the Affirmative Civil Enforcement program of the U.S. Attorney's Office. In 2012, agents assisted in the recovery of more than \$500,000, and it is anticipated that the efforts of agents and fire investigators this past fire season may result in the recovery of more than \$1,000,000.

Idaho's public lands continued to see a decrease in illicit marijuana production in 2012. Special agents, along with their

federal, state, and local partners, continued their "zero tolerance" stance against marijuana cultivation on Idaho's public lands. Overflight operations, citizen tips, and investigative activities resulted in the eradication of 54,000 marijuana plants from two separate growth locations on lands managed by the Idaho Department of Lands and the U.S. Forest Service. BLM law enforcement continued to provide support to these operations as part of an interagency team that includes the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, state and local agencies, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In 2012, the lead suspect in a felony wire burn case was arrested by a BLM special agent on a federal arrest warrant that resulted from an earlier indictment. This marked the conclusion of a 3-year investigation into the illegal burning of 200 pounds of stolen copper wire in a popular BLM campground fire ring. The burnt residue in the fire ring contained 10 times the legal limit of lead and would have been extremely hazardous to the public had it not been discovered. The suspect pleaded guilty to destruction of government property and is awaiting sentencing on the felony violation.

A Full Spectrum of Incidents

Throughout the year, BLM rangers in Idaho responded to a wide variety of incidents on public lands. These incidents ranged from recreation-related violations to eradication of marijuana gardens. Among these violations, numerous realty trespass cases were referred for administrative action, and one cattle trespass case resulted in the BLM recovering \$6,000 in restitution. Due to high use of the Payette River in the summer of 2012, river patrols were initiated by rangers in efforts to provide safety for recreational users and protection of the public resource. In several districts, ranger patrol efforts uncovered narcotic distribution cases, which were either turned over to the respective sheriff's office or submitted for prosecution in the state system. Rangers teamed up to patrol high-use areas on a regular basis with a large degree of success; violations encountered ranged from underage drinking to possession of controlled substances to nonpermitted events.

Partnerships and Interagency Relationships

Idaho rangers continued efforts to strengthen interagency relations and developed strong working relationships with law enforcement partners throughout the state. Rangers are now deputized in 14 counties; these partnerships proved extremely beneficial during fire season, as rangers were tasked with assisting various sheriffs' offices with evacuations. Several realty trespass



and commercial dumping cases were investigated jointly by rangers and sheriff deputies. Coordination and cooperation with the Idaho County Sheriff's Office led to a significant decrease in crime during the annual Riggins Rodeo. The Bear Lake Raspberry Days Festival was another example of partnerships in action as BLM rangers partnered with Bear Lake sheriff deputies and U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officers to patrol the annual event. Rangers also assisted Idaho State Police troopers with four narcotics interdiction operations. The rangers are also active members of the Idaho Police Officers' Memorial and participated in the annual memorial service in Twin Falls.

Idaho rangers devoted a good deal of time reaching out to user groups in an effort to improve compliance with laws and regulations on public lands. For example, the Saint Anthony Sand Dunes and South Fork of the Snake River both experienced a marked increase in compliance from user groups, as well as a decrease in accidents and injuries.

OREGON/WASHINGTON

A Diverse Caseload and an Array of Partners

Oregon special agents investigated wildland arsons, a methamphetamine dump, commercial hazardous waste dumps, unpermitted guiding and trail development, internal affairs issues, occupancy trespass, several violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, mining claim fraud, and thefts of timber, special forest products, petrified wood, and flagstone. The partners involved in these efforts were as diverse as the crimes investigated and included numerous counties, the Oregon State Police, Environmental Protection Agency, Douglas Forest Protective Association, and many others. Among the highlights of these cases are the convictions of two eastern Oregon ranchers for committing arson on federal lands; both received federal prison time. Many other cases are still under active criminal investigation, while others have been or are in the process of being resolved through civil or administrative processes.

Second Year of Decreased Marijuana Production

Although marijuana production was down for a second year in a row in 2012, it was not completely gone. Special agents spent significant amounts of time and energy detecting, investigating, and eradicating marijuana growth on public lands in Oregon. Several special agents participated in county, regional, and federal task forces for this purpose. In one case, four members of a

Mexican drug trafficking organization were indicted, with more expected. After agents identified the suspects and their local base of operations, officers conducted a traffic stop and executed a search warrant at the suspect residence. Approximately 80 pounds of processed marijuana and 4 firearms were seized, and 6,466 plants were eradicated from the associated marijuana grow. In another case, agents worked closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration, investigating a conspiracy to illegally distribute marijuana that was partially grown on public lands under the guise of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program.

Detail Participation and Agency Support

In addition to their regular case loads, special agents in Oregon took on a number of other challenges. In 2012, they participated in a number of local, regional, and national details, including the Burning Man festival in Nevada and the Run to the Cascades Motorcycle Rally. Special agents assisted their local rangers and field offices, as well as many other law enforcement agencies, with investigations including resource crimes, drug crimes, wildland arsons, and homicides.

Agents used their special talents, skills, and qualifications to continue to foster interagency and intra-agency communications and cooperation. Agents provided training in firearms, control tactics, and outdoor marijuana investigations. They also lent their expertise to other agencies, when called upon, employing skills such as tactical team medic, covert remote electronic surveillance, aerial marijuana spotting, and Spanish language skills.

The Far Reach of Rangers' Duties

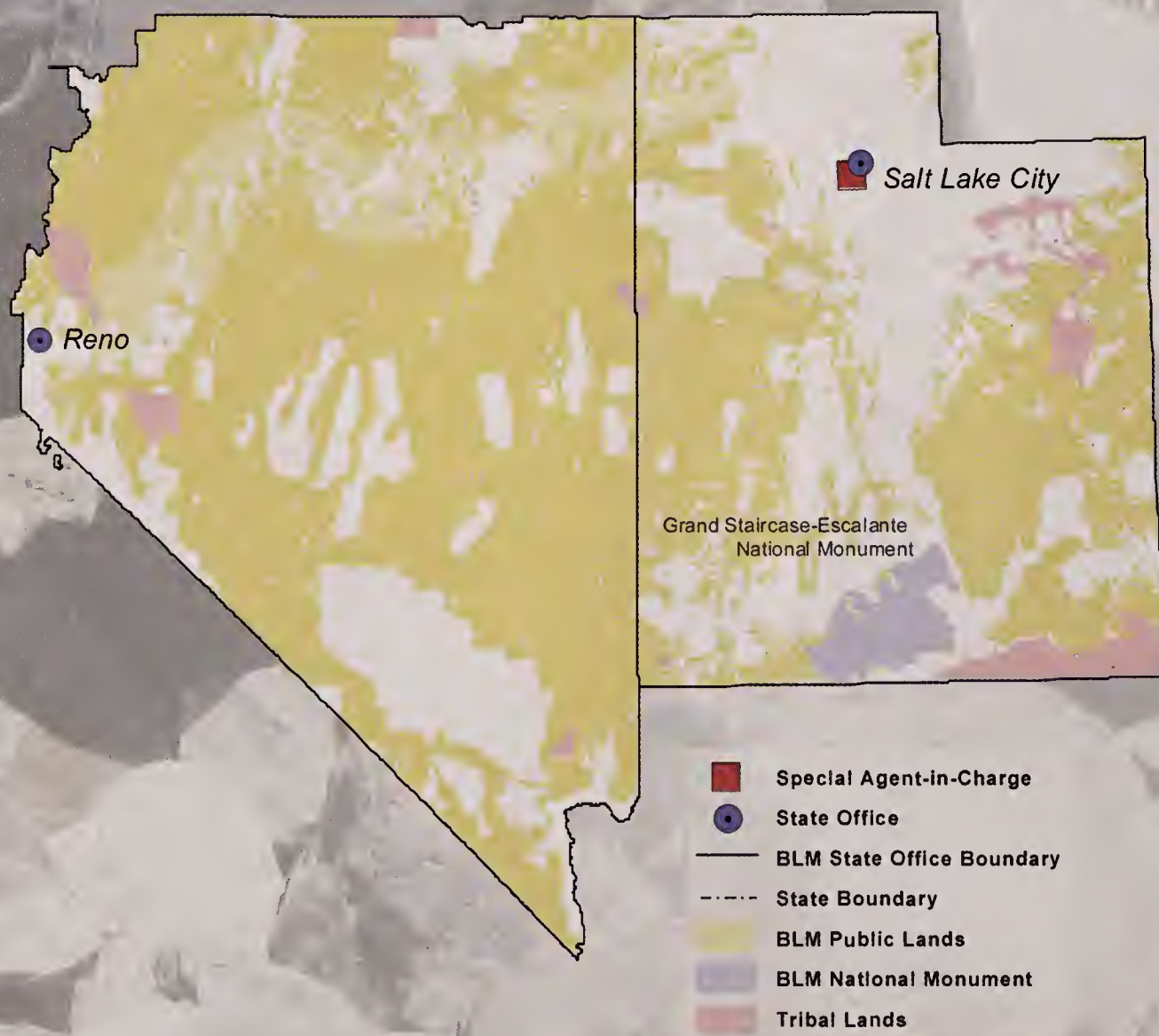
Rangers patrol on all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles, horseback, boat, and four-wheel-drive vehicles to help cover the 16.1 million acres the BLM oversees in Oregon and Washington. In 2012, BLM rangers in these states encountered every conceivable type of crime. Rangers concentrated on resource-related crimes, working in close cooperation with state and federal agencies and with almost every program within the BLM. BLM law enforcement continues to strengthen their coordination with federal, state, and local partners through a multitude of interagency enforcement activities, joint patrols, investigations, and training. BLM law enforcement interacts with a variety of interagency task forces and working groups on a weekly basis in the hope of sharing information to not only solve crimes, but to become more proactive and a better partner with the communities.

Throughout the year, rangers responded to a variety of issues and situations ranging from assaults against federal employees to shutting down illegal mining operations. Their duties included everything from providing public education on the rules and regulations of the BLM to writing citations for those who chose to break the laws. Rangers dealt with people wanted for crimes committed on and off BLM lands and with people needing immediate medical assistance.

Rangers in Oregon and Washington, once again, worked hard in the fight against the illegal growing of marijuana on public lands. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of plants that were found on BLM lands for the second year in a row. Rangers have been able to work closely with special agents and county sheriffs' offices to help with their efforts to investigate and dismantle large outdoor marijuana gardens run by drug trafficking organizations operating on public lands.



REGION 3



REGION 3 Nevada and Utah

New Special Agent-in-Charge

Dan Love became the Region 3 Special Agent-in-Charge in 2012. Love, who has worked in law enforcement for more than 18 years, began his career as a state officer with the Utah Department of Corrections Adult Probation and Parole. In 2002, Love became a U.S. air marshal assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in Salt Lake City, Utah, from 2003 to 2006. Love joined the BLM as a special agent in 2006 and was promoted to the Utah Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge in 2010 before becoming the Region 3 Special Agent-in-Charge. Love is excited and honored to lead Region 3 as it continues to advance the BLM's law enforcement mission.



NEVADA

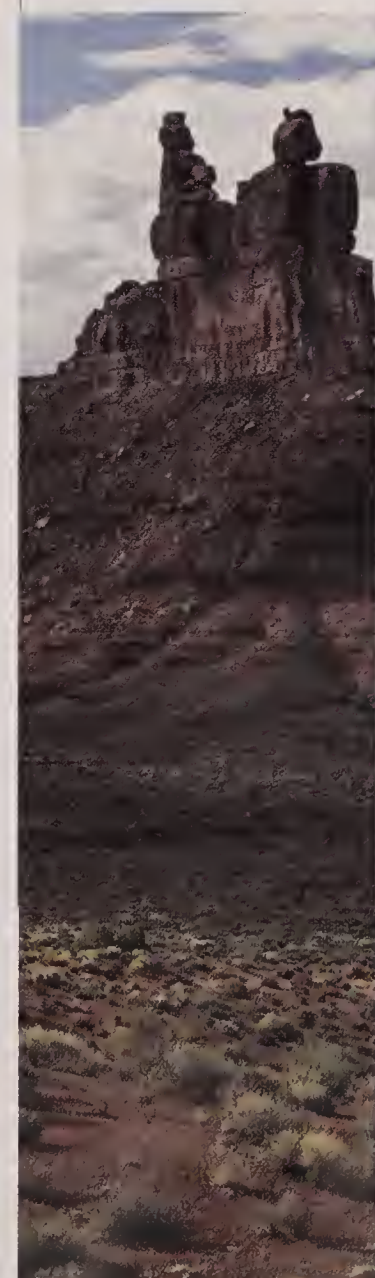
In Nevada, approximately 48 million acres of public land are administered by the BLM, which is roughly 68 percent of the state. Resources are diverse and range from traditional uses, such as grazing and mining, to increased recreational uses, which often accompany rapid population growth. In 2012, the Nevada law enforcement program consisted of 23 rangers and 5 special agents. The Nevada law enforcement program entered into five law enforcement patrol agreements with county sheriffs' offices and two law enforcement dispatch agreements.

Diverse Caseload

The Nevada law enforcement program investigates many types of natural resource crimes. In 2012, an oil and gas fraud investigation resulted in an individual being sentenced to 11 years in prison and fined more than \$9.5 million. In 2012, Nevada law enforcement officers documented 3,671 incidents, issued approximately 2,060 citations, and conducted or assisted with approximately 21 felony arrests statewide. The Southern Nevada District alone documented 2,317 incidents, issued approximately 1,640 citations, and conducted 12 arrests.

Recreation Activities

The BLM manages a major off-highway vehicle recreation site at the Sand Mountain Recreation Area in northern Nevada. Located in Churchill County, Sand Mountain is an example of the effects of growing off-highway vehicle use. In the past 15 years, recreational use has tripled to more than 70,000 visitors each year. In 2012, the BLM law enforcement program assigned about 43 law enforcement officers to work at Sand Mountain (4 to 7 officers assigned during each major holiday weekend). BLM law enforcement officers documented 401 incidents, issued approximately 103 citations, and conducted 2 arrests at the recreation area.



National Conservation Areas

In northern Nevada, the BLM manages the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. This area is host to the annual Burning Man festival, which is the largest permitted recreational event on BLM-managed land. In 2012, the event drew approximately 52,385 participants to the national conservation area during 8 days. A law enforcement contingent of 124 officers from the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, Nevada Department of Public Safety, Pershing County, and Washoe County were assigned to the event. During the 2012 Burning Man event, federal law enforcement officers issued 365 citations and conducted/assisted in 14 arrests. One individual who absconded from law enforcement during the 2011 event was discovered and arrested at this year's event. He was indicted, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to 41 months in federal prison for possession of a controlled substance (ecstasy).

In southern Nevada, the BLM manages the Sloan Canyon and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Areas, which are adjacent to Las Vegas. These two areas attract roughly one million visitors per year. For the past decade, Las Vegas has been the fastest growing city in the United States. In southern Nevada, the BLM, using funds generated through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, employs 4 rangers and 1 special agent to work on a 25-officer, multiagency land management task force. This task force encompasses the BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service. Through a memorandum of understanding, officers from these four federal land management agencies target problem areas within all four jurisdictions. One of these areas for the BLM is the Sunrise Management Area, east of Las Vegas. The law enforcement partnership conducted several multiagency operations throughout the year.

Marijuana Eradication

In 2012, Nevada law enforcement documented six marijuana gardens operated by suspected Mexican drug trafficking organizations. One garden was located on BLM land, four were located on U.S. Forest Service land, and one was located on private property. A total of 33,041 marijuana plants were eradicated in Nevada. One marijuana garden investigation involving the BLM and U.S. Forest Service resulted in the arrest and indictment of three individuals suspected of cultivating marijuana on public lands.

UTAH

The Utah law enforcement program consists of 16 rangers and 5 special agents. The 22.9 million acres of public land

managed by the BLM in Utah include magnificent open spaces of extraordinary beauty and diversity, remote wilderness areas teeming with countless species of plant and animal life (many of them threatened or endangered), extensive reserves of energy and mineral resources, spectacular world class recreation venues that attract millions of visitors, and the nation's largest national monument.

Marijuana Eradication

In 2012, Utah law enforcement worked closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Forest Service, and several local sheriffs' departments to combat illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands. Special agents and rangers helped in the discovery, surveillance, and coordination of marijuana garden eradication. One Utah special agent was assigned to a Drug Enforcement Administration task force in southern Utah which enhanced intelligence sharing and interagency cooperation. Utah saw a significant decrease in marijuana plant numbers in 2012. Approximately 11,804 marijuana plants were eradicated from 4 separate gardens on federal land and private land in Utah; down from a total of 48,720 plants and 8 gardens in 2011. Utah law enforcement also participated in a campaign to increase public awareness about law enforcement officers combatting the activity of drug trafficking organizations throughout Utah.

Fire Management

One Utah special agent is dedicated to the fire management program. The Utah fire investigation and trespass program, in conjunction with the Affirmative Civil Enforcement program of the U.S. Attorney's Office, serves as a model fire trespass recovery program for the BLM. Under the program, public funds are used to suppress human-caused fires and support the rehabilitation and stabilization of burned areas. The program combines the efforts of the fire investigations special agent, Utah rangers, the BLM firefighting community, and Affirmative Civil Enforcement attorneys in an attempt to recover those public funds from negligent suspects and/or responsible parties.

The fire program was actively used in 2012 when, similar to 2011, Utah experienced an increase in fires caused by firearms and exploding targets. This led to a concerted effort to restrict the use of exploding targets in an attempt to decrease future human-caused fires. Approximately \$5.9 million has been recovered through the efforts of the Affirmative Civil Enforcement program in Utah, including \$330,121 in 2012. Nearly \$4.5 million is currently in litigation for fiscal year 2013. Several human-caused fires in 2012 will be investigated and forwarded to the U.S. Attorney's Office for civil adjudication.

Cultural Resources Protection

In 2012, the Utah criminal investigation program concluded Cerberus Action, a multicomponent and multiphase investigation that resulted in numerous federal convictions and felony counts. The investigation led to the recovery of hundreds of thousands of archaeological and American Indian artifacts, and the Utah criminal investigation program has begun coordinating the repatriation of thousands of seized artifacts with BLM cultural resources staff.

Although Cerberus Action helped deter artifact looting in southern Utah, the law enforcement program has remained actively engaged in cases involving the theft and sale of American Indian artifacts from public lands. In 2012, Utah special agents conducted undercover operations that yielded a federal indictment and the recovery of stolen Fremont Indian artifacts.

Diverse Caseload

Utah special agents worked on many diverse resource crimes in 2012. An investigation into the theft and subsequent sale of a unique scientific resource (commonly called Moqui marbles) from the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument revealed an intricate network of suspects who have been looting these items and selling them for profit both domestically and internationally. Search warrants and undercover operations were executed, and a multisuspect indictment is pending.

A Utah special agent led a multiagency investigation that proved two individuals adopted wild horses and planned to transport them to Mexico for slaughter. This precedent-setting case resulted in two separate felony convictions, the first of their kind in BLM law enforcement history.

In an attempt to ensure hunting and guiding outfitters and off-highway vehicle/tour guiding services are in compliance with BLM regulations, the Utah law enforcement program has assumed a pioneering role in how special recreation permit violation investigations are conducted throughout the state. A Utah special agent is actively engaged in an investigation with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service regarding outfitters operating in Utah without valid permits.

Utah and Nevada rangers and special agents embraced the regional concept and worked across the Utah-Nevada state border to investigate resource crimes, assist in the eradication

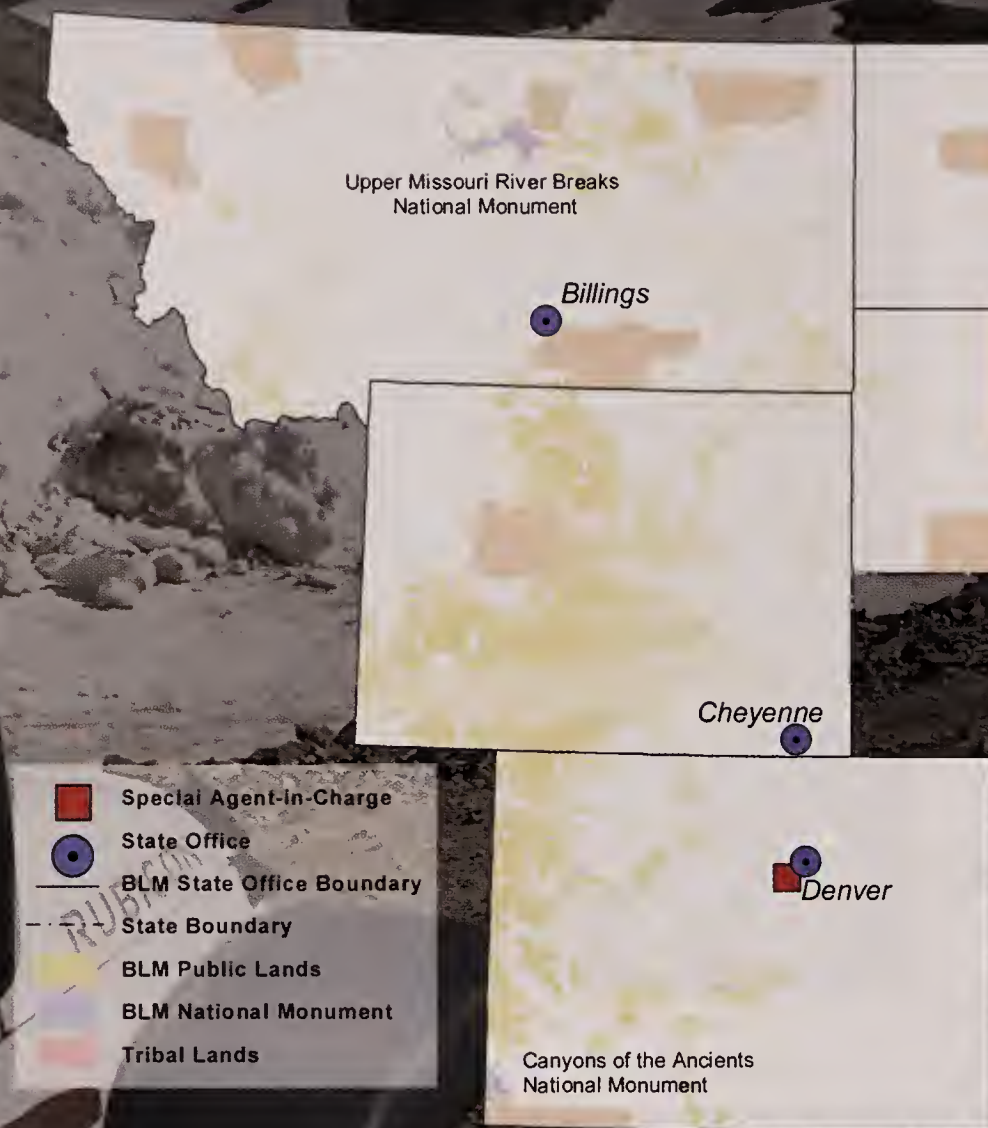


of marijuana gardens, and develop an operational plan for a major cattle impoundment. In addition, the Utah and Nevada law enforcement programs worked together to restructure law enforcement activities at the Burning Man festival, the largest permitted recreational gathering on public lands administered by the BLM.

The Region 3 Special Agent-in-Charge and the Utah State Chief Ranger worked with the Utah Executive Leadership Team to bring supervisory district rangers to Utah. The Utah Executive Leadership Team approved the hiring of two supervisory district rangers who will be stationed in the Salt Lake Field Office and Cedar City Field Office during fiscal year 2013.

In 2012, Utah law enforcement officers documented 2,203 incidents for input into the Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System. These incidents included numerous citations and arrests.

REGION 4



REGION 4 **Colorado, Eastern States, Montana/Dakotas, and Wyoming**

Region 4 oversees BLM public lands and subsurface mineral estate in Colorado, Montana, North and South Dakota, and Wyoming and all of the Eastern, Midwest, Northern, and Southern States. The BLM manages approximately 35 million surface acres and more than 140 million subsurface acres of federal energy interests within Region 4's areas of responsibility. Working across such vast expanses of land requires commitment, common purpose, and unity of effort.

Region 4 fosters the BLM's multiple-use mission by supporting BLM land management objectives, meeting public safety demands, and enforcing resource protection mandates. Region 4 law enforcement professionals actively patrol America's public lands and aggressively investigate crimes committed against the United States Government. Contributing value and solidly achieving results are hallmark characteristics of the Region 4 law enforcement program.

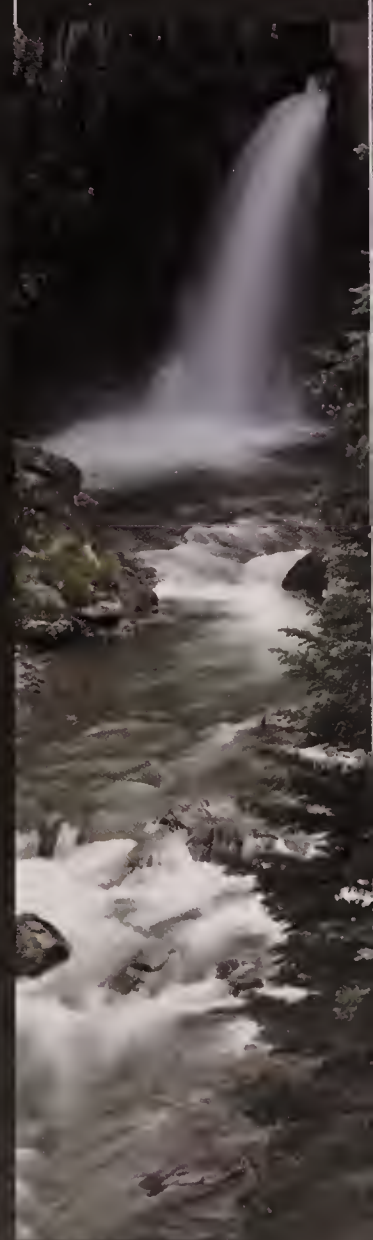
Throughout fiscal year 2012, these dedicated federal law enforcement officials continued to proudly represent the BLM, displaying a tremendous commitment to the people and resources they serve and protect. The 34 rangers and 7 special agents, led by Special Agent-in-Charge Jeanne Proctor, performed the full spectrum of resource patrol and investigative functions, including enforcing federal laws relating to mining and mineral extraction, energy production, cultural and paleontological resources, rangelands, recreation, timber, wild horses and burros, wilderness, wildlife, realty, and human-caused wildland fires.

COLORADO and EASTERN STATES

The Colorado and Eastern States law enforcement programs provide investigative and patrol enforcement support for approximately 8.3 million surface acres of BLM public land and 66.7 million subsurface acres of mineral estate. More than one-third of Colorado's land area is available for public use. These lands play a vital role in providing open space and contributing to Coloradans' quality of life. BLM-Eastern States administers vast and complex public interests in federal minerals and fluid resources across multiple states. In 2012, Colorado and Eastern States law enforcement rangers and special agents initiated 2,159 reportable enforcement actions.

Significant Investigations

In Colorado, law enforcement staff participated in multiple significant investigations. With a record high fire season, Colorado rangers and special agents from the Grand Junction, Little Snake, Royal Gorge, and Tres Rios Field Offices investigated the cause of several large fires. The Northwest District continued to pursue illegal big game outfitters that violate special recreation permit requirements. With investigative help



from the field staff ranger, the Little Snake Field Office cancelled three special recreation permits related to big game guides and outfitters due to permit violations. Special agents presented an illegal outfitting case to the U.S. Department of Justice for prosecution. BLM special agents and Colorado Parks and Wildlife criminal investigators jointly worked this case.

Colorado rangers and agents continue to place a high priority on investigations of cultural resource theft and vandalism. In fiscal year 2012, an Archaeological Resources Protection Act investigation involving the disturbance of an Ancestral Puebloan burial site was presented to the U.S. Department of Justice for prosecution. The defendants in this case were sentenced to a total of 13 days in jail. The investigation was led by Southwest District agents and supported by Tres Rios Field Office rangers.

The Eastern States law enforcement program continued to focus criminal investigations on violations of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The Eastern States special agent also conducted preliminary inquiries and full investigations regarding realty trespass, forest product theft, and special recreation permit violations throughout the southeastern United States.

Partnerships and Assistance

To help promote responsible off-highway vehicle use, the Colorado State Office continued a partnership established in 2011 between Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Responsible Recreation Foundation. The Colorado law enforcement program provided rangers and agents to monitor and enforce compliance with off-highway vehicle regulations in several key areas. The BLM's Grand Junction, Gunnison, Kremmling, Royal Gorge, San Luis Valley, Tres Rios, and Uncompahgre Field Offices received funding through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV Law Enforcement Pilot Program to conduct additional off-highway vehicle patrols on public lands. Rangers documented contact with 7,070 off-highway vehicle users and issued 254 warnings and 106 violation notices when working under the pilot program.

In 2012, partnerships were strengthened with the U.S. Forest Service through new memorandums of understanding that cross-delegate Region 4 law enforcement rangers and special agents and Forest Service officers. Memorandums of understanding were also initiated with the National Park Service's Intermountain Region and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

A memorandum of understanding was revised and signed in 2012 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for high-visibility

patrols to be conducted at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Virginia.

The Colorado State Office provided management assistance to the Southeastern States Field Office by attending several meetings with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and the Jupiter Inlet Working Group to address law enforcement needs at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area in Florida.

MONTANA/DAKOTAS

The BLM administers more than 8.3 million surface acres of public land and 47 million acres of subsurface mineral estate in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. In Montana and the Dakotas, the BLM manages fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, national scenic and historic trails, recreation, rangeland, timber, watersheds, minerals, wild horses, national monuments, and a wild and scenic river.

In 2012, Montana/Dakotas law enforcement personnel initiated 1,038 reportable enforcement actions. Investigative actions focused on violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, paleontological resources theft, fraud, and illegal outfitting.

Significant Investigations

Special agents are investigating a variety of offenses. Two cases are awaiting prosecution with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Billings, Montana. One of these cases involves the defacing of a national monument, and the other involves a falsified application for a special recreation permit for outfitting. Other investigations include illegal outfitting in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, a methamphetamine dump site, threats to employees, timber theft, wire fraud/false statements pertaining to placer mine claims, illegal excavation of paleontological sites, and the illegal digging of artifacts from the Fort Benton area. In 2012, special agents also assisted Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks with the execution of a search warrant pertaining to the illegal shooting of raptors and other wildlife on private, state, and federal lands. This case resulted in numerous state and federal charges.

Presence at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

During the 2012 annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, additional law enforcement personnel were assigned to patrol the popular Fort Meade Recreation Area. During this event, approximately 621 visitor contacts resulted in 68 citations and 9 arrests, 2 of which were felony arrests for possession of controlled substances.

WYOMING

Throughout Wyoming, the BLM manages approximately 18.4 million acres of public land and approximately 26.4 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. Additionally, from the Casper Field Office, BLM-Wyoming manages approximately 4,000 acres of public lands and approximately 106,000 acres of mineral estate in Nebraska.

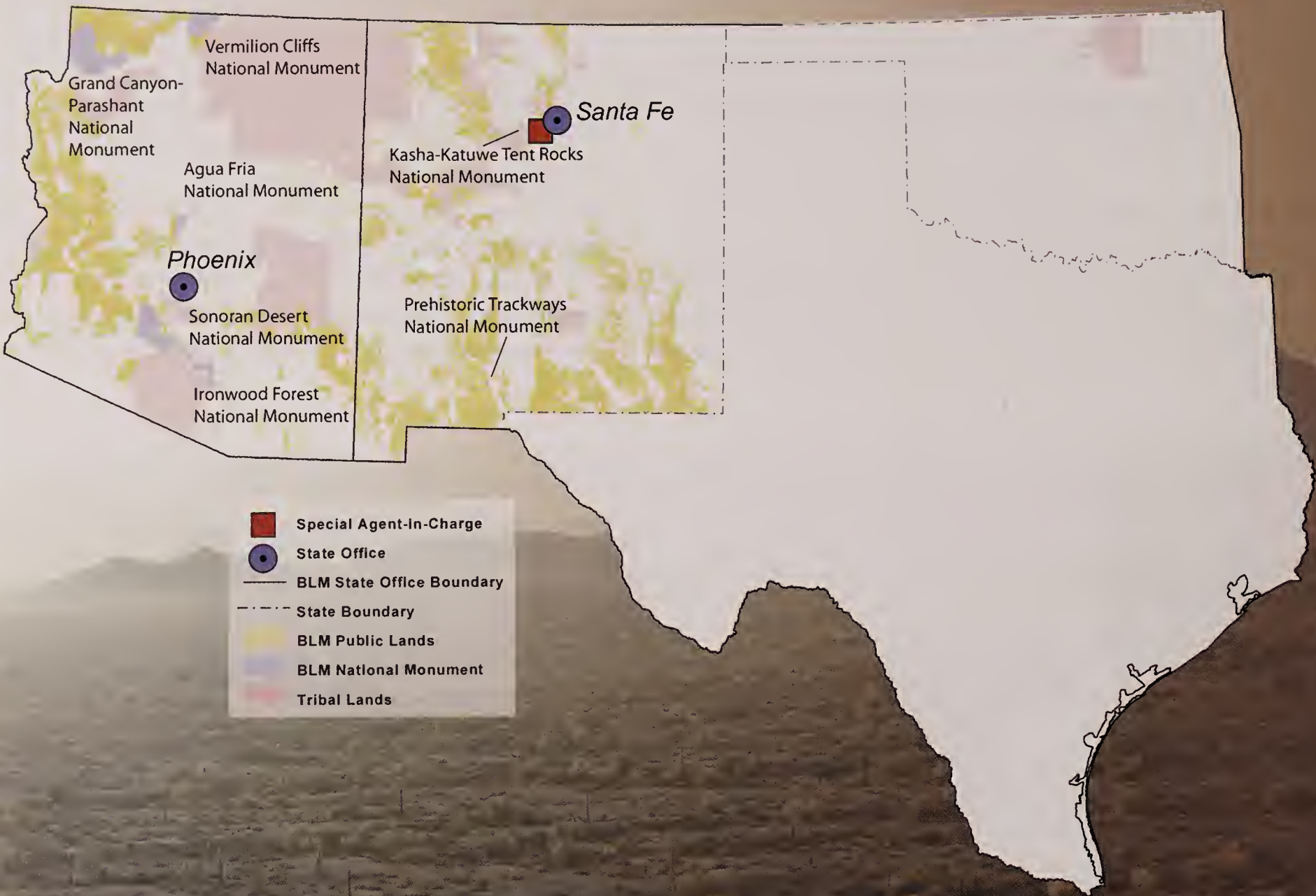
In 2012, Wyoming law enforcement rangers and special agents initiated 942 reportable enforcement actions. Investigative actions focused on theft of government property, mineral theft, violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, threats to federal employees, and hazardous or injurious devices on federal lands.

Significant Investigations

One significant investigation identified looted cave shelters that likely contained American Indian artifacts in the Cody Field Office area. Two mining/mineral cases involved the significant illegal removal of gravel and moss rock from BLM lands. Wyoming agents are also investigating a large survivalist cache that was discovered on BLM land and contained large quantities of ammunition, firearms, and explosives. Several referrals from rangers have resulted in investigations into illegal outfitting and theft of federal resources.



REGION 5



REGION 5 **Arizona and New Mexico**

The Region 5 law enforcement program covers Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. The rangers, special agents, and investigative technicians pursue a broad range of cases, from recreation-related offenses and incidents to felony investigations, as they relate to the protection of the land and its resources and the public. The law enforcement program of Region 5 is led by Special Agent-in-Charge Noel Wagner.

Resource protection and public safety on public lands near the border with Mexico continued to be a primary concern for the Region 5 law enforcement program. In 2012, Region 5 personnel continued to direct and support operation Reclaim Our Arizona Monuments (ROAM). Under this Arizona State Office initiative and strategy, rangers and agents conducted and directed numerous multiagency border safety operations on public lands within the Sonoran Desert and Ironwood Forest National Monuments, as well as in the Boot Heel area of southern New Mexico. ROAM operations targeted smuggling activity that has damaged the monument areas and created a safety hazard for the public and BLM employees.

ROAM was established as part of a broad cooperative effort that emphasizes cleanup and rehabilitation projects in the monuments, as well as border enforcement tactics. In 2012, ROAM resulted in several accomplishments for public lands and the community, which included helping seize more than 16,000 pounds of marijuana, rehabilitate more than 34,000 feet of trails, and dispose of more than 48,500 pounds of trash.

Also in 2012, Region 5 leadership was granted a seat on the Unified Command Board of the Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats (ACTT). This board oversees and directs ACTT cooperative law enforcement missions throughout southern Arizona. This multiagency initiative has resulted in a large, diverse, and strong partnership with numerous federal and state agencies in the fight against border-related crime and its effect on public land resources and the community. The ACTT leverages personnel, intelligence, data, and other resources for border-related missions on public lands and surrounding communities.

ARIZONA

Cases Closed

In Arizona, an investigation into a commercial saguaro cactus theft case occurring on BLM-managed lands in central Arizona has been concluded and is pending a plea agreement for felony theft of government property and a misdemeanor violation of the Endangered Species Act. A long-term occupancy trespass discovered during the saguaro theft investigation was also successfully resolved by the case agent. Additionally, the case agent, in conjunction with other federal and state agencies, implemented a native plant theft awareness campaign.



In 2008, rangers recovered a boulder that contains petroglyphs and was stolen from public lands and presented the case to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution. This case was misplaced during a reorganization of the U.S. Attorney's Office. In 2010, an Arizona agent worked with the office to locate this case and conduct additional followup. During the followup investigation, the agent determined that three additional boulders containing petroglyphs had been stolen from Bureau of Reclamation lands in the 1970s. The suspect pleaded guilty to one felony violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and was ordered to pay the Bureau of Reclamation \$10,655.

Ongoing Investigations

In 2010, rangers investigated an arson that covered 7,500 acres of public lands along the Arizona-California border. In 2012, an informant provided information that Bureau of Indian Affairs firefighters were possible suspects. The BLM and DOI Office of Inspector General conducted a joint investigation, which led to the issuance of five target letters and three pending indictments for arson and conspiracy.

Arizona law enforcement, in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration and other federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, eradicated a 12,700-plant marijuana garden in west-central Arizona. Four suspects were arrested, and indictments are pending. The BLM is conducting rehabilitation of the affected area as this investigation continues. Also, Arizona Strip District rangers and agents identified, investigated, and reclaimed a large abandoned marijuana grow site on public lands. It is believed that the garden site was used several seasons, and it was consistent with other illegal grow operations found on public lands. It is estimated that the site contained approximately 8,000 marijuana plants when operational.

Other ongoing Office of Law Enforcement and Security investigations in Arizona include a large-scale commercial sewage dumping case, mining fraud and mining claim/right-of-way trespass, commercial timber theft, and several cultural resource theft investigations.

Border Safety Operations

Two Arizona agents assigned to public lands near the southern border were extremely active supporting numerous border safety operations in 2012. Combined, these two agents received 20 federal indictments for drug trafficking incidents on public lands. Along with these indictments, 2,803 pounds of marijuana, 9 vehicles, 1 firearm, and numerous intelligence

items were seized. The intelligence items include drug trafficking organization cell phones, radios, maps, black books with phone numbers, and supplies. These items and the data retrieved from them are shared with all southern border cooperating agencies, which provides a larger operational picture of drug trafficking organization operations and helps reduce the effects these organizations have on public lands and their resources.

K-9s Continue Significant Contributions

Region 5 K-9 teams continue to be an effective force on public lands. In 2012, these teams were responsible for numerous drug seizures and provided support and protection to nearly every law enforcement function in the region.

NEW MEXICO

Investigations and Convictions

In New Mexico, rangers and agents investigated a wide array of cases, including wildland fires, theft of government property, and weapons and drug violations, as well as mineral, cultural, and forest product violations. At the beginning of the year, New Mexico agents and rangers served a federal warrant in support of an investigation involving the illegal extraction of minerals without authorization in the Pecos District. The warrant service was assisted by the Albuquerque FBI's Evidence Response Team and resulted in the collection of numerous items of evidence by using computer forensic techniques. Federal indictments in the case are pending.

Pursuant to a BLM federal arrest warrant, New Mexico agents arrested and indicted a temporary fire employee for the theft and embezzlement of more than \$8,000 in government funds and property. The temporary employee had used stolen fleet cards for illegal purchases. The investigation also led to the recovery of stolen U.S. Forest Service equipment.

In March 2012, a suspect pleaded guilty in federal court for interfering with lawful users on public lands, after brandishing a weapon at users near his property. This conviction was the result of a year-long investigation that involved undercover and surveillance operations conducted by Farmington Field Office agents and rangers. The investigation was initiated due to numerous complaints from citizens being driven off public lands.

Due to the extensive and illegal removal of forestry products in the Albuquerque District, rangers and agents conducted several saturation patrols in the area surrounding Cuba, New Mexico.

The successes of these patrols resulted in the hire of seasonal BLM foresters to assist with patrolling duties in the Cuba area and funding for additional law enforcement saturation patrols. In northern New Mexico, rangers also successfully investigated a large “green timber” theft case, using surveillance cameras and stump-matching techniques. The suspect was cited in federal court and relinquished all of the stolen ponderosa pine, which was valued at \$1,000.

K-9 Support in Action

In July 2012, a New Mexico officer and his K-9 partner investigated a possible theft of range equipment, which led to the seizure of illegal prescription drugs from three subjects and a concealed handgun and a stolen handgun from two of the other suspects. This same K-9 team assisted another New Mexico ranger in July, when the K-9 detected the odor of a controlled

substance coming from a vehicle, which resulted in the recovery of almost a pound of marijuana and more than a quarter pound of illegal mushrooms. The suspect fled from the scene, and the K-9 tracked and located the suspect. The K-9 team also supported multiple national and local details in support of the BLM throughout the year.

Rangers Coordinate Community Cleanup

New Mexico rangers were also active in developing and implementing several community cleanup days throughout the state. One such operation near Cuarteles involved 10 members of the community, as well as BLM fire crews and equipment. Approximately 6 tons of garbage and 355 tires were removed during a 2-day period.



BLM Ranger and Volunteer Use Mustangs to Ride Fence

Long-present grazing fences between BLM lands in central and southern Arizona and the Tohono O'odham Nation were in disrepair. Time and the elements had an effect on the mostly barbed wire barriers. Other damages came from smugglers of drugs and humans who cut the fences or pummeled through them in their push across American Indian and BLM-managed lands to Interstate 8.

BLM land managers and law enforcement rangers knew the fences needed to be fixed. They also knew that they needed a clear picture of where the damaged sites were located. Someone needed to lay eyes on every inch of the fences—not an easy task in the rugged terrain of the Ironwood Forest and Sonoran Desert National Monuments.

The solution to this necessary task came when BLM Ranger Cynthia Barrett volunteered to use her horses to ride along the fence, and she enlisted volunteer Randy Helm to help her. Both are avid horse lovers and both have adopted mustangs that once ran wild on BLM land.

Both Barrett and Helm have other horses in addition to their adopted mustangs. One of Barrett's three horses was used by smugglers and then abandoned in the Sonoran Desert National Monument. The horse was rescued and put in the hands of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, which is the standard policy in such cases. When the state put the horse up for adoption, Barrett adopted it. Helm has a quarter horse in addition to his mustang.

They used all of their horses on the rides, but the mustangs and Barrett's adopted horse Valley provided the best service. "They have the most stamina," Barrett said of Valley and her mustang Rio. "For the longer rides, I usually take them. They move faster across the terrain." For Helm, his mustang Major was the literal workhorse. "He just keeps going," Helm said. "I think on some of those rides, the horse had more endurance than I did."

For both the humans and the horses, the days were exhausting. Barrett and Helm started early, loading the horses in a trailer and then driving 2 hours or more to where they left off the day before. Sometimes they were able to drive directly to the location. On other days they had to ride 3 to 4 miles before they could start surveying. "We would ride 6 to 10 hours a day.



That's in addition to the time it takes to drive to the site and care for the horses," Barrett said. The pair and their horses worked a few 15- to 16-hour days, with the drive and ride combined.

While riding in the desert, Barrett and Helm noted damage to the fence. They recorded global positioning system data and took pictures of each damaged location. They also noted water caches and areas of excessive trash, likely sites of illegal operations. Barrett said, "Being able to ride horses [on the job] is an added bonus. I see areas that I'm not normally seeing. Usually I'm patrolling [in a vehicle] on roads. This gives me a different perspective. We've seen a lot of illegal roads, a lot of places where backpackers [carrying loads of marijuana] have come through and where illegal aliens have come through."

Barrett, as a law enforcement ranger, was armed on the horse patrols, although she did not encounter any suspected smugglers. She noted that law enforcement was not the main mission of the operation. "Our purpose at this time is to catalog breaks in the fence," she said.

Helm has had ties with the BLM for some time, and he performed all of the work as an unpaid volunteer. He often conducts wild horse clinics, working with the wild animals from gathers and training them so they can interact with humans and be led on a rope. Since completing the fence ride, Helm has taken a job with the Arizona Department of Corrections training inmates to care for animals and to break mustangs and burros adopted from the BLM.

The BLM is working with the Tohono O'odham Nation on agreements to repair the fence and perform regular patrols for mutual benefit. This is one of the projects the BLM is undertaking as part of operation ROAM, which aims to repair damage caused by illegal border-related activities in the Ironwood Forest and Sonoran Desert National Monuments.

With the fence in good repair, new breaks can be monitored. Knowing where the breaks are will give managers insight into smugglers' strategies so BLM law enforcement surveillance activities can be adjusted.



Fire Trespass Program Experiences Record Fire Season

Nationally, the 2012 wildland fire season was one of the most destructive in recent history. By the end of the fiscal year, the National Interagency Fire Center recorded 51,222 fires that affected 8,972,378 acres. In addition, 4,227 structures were lost, including 2,210 homes, 67 commercial buildings, and 1,950 outbuildings—a number higher than anything seen in more than a decade. Twelve firefighter or fire-related fatalities occurred in 2012, which surpassed the previous year. The BLM alone experienced 2,891 fires that affected 3,313,102 acres—a number higher than the 10-year average.

Over the past decade, 45 percent of the fires occurring on public lands administered by the BLM have been human-caused. The BLM fire trespass program was established to address human-caused fires. Fire trespass refers to BLM lands in which the source of ignition is a result of human activity, and there is evidence of negligence or intent. For human-caused fires in which negligence or intent can be determined, actions will be taken to recover the cost of stabilization and rehabilitation treatments and damages to resources.

BLM law enforcement plays a large role in the successful implementation of the fire trespass program. According to Tim Murphy, BLM Office of Fire and Aviation Assistant Director, “BLM law enforcement personnel across our organization are major contributors to the success of the fire trespass program. Rangers and special agents conduct highly effective investigations and develop solid cases that stand up in both negotiated settlements and in court. Law enforcement efforts have contributed greatly to ensuring the word is out there that people responsible for negligent or intentional fire starts on public land will be held accountable, and the costs will not be carried on the backs of the people we serve.”

Federal agencies spend more than \$2.5 billion annually to suppress wildland fires, and the cost continues to increase. In 1999, Congress provided permanent authority for the BLM to retain fire cost recovery funds without fiscal limitations. Recovered funds that have historically been turned over to the U.S. Department of Treasury have since been credited to the appropriation from where they were expended. Over the last decade, millions of dollars have been recovered through the BLM fire trespass program, which has provided the agency with funding that can be used for improving, protecting, and rehabilitating public lands. In fiscal year 2012, the BLM collected a little more than \$1.4 million dollars.

The success of the fire trespass program can be attributed in large part to the interdisciplinary work between the law enforcement and fire programs. BLM National Fire Trespass Coordinator Jon Skinner states, “The partnership between law enforcement and fire is one of the best examples of teamwork in the Bureau. Many rangers and special agents are now qualified fire investigators, and the role they play both on the ground and in reviewing and strengthening fire investigation cases is critical to a successful trespass program.” He went on to say, “Fire cost recovery relies on solid on-scene and followup investigations. The assistance and expertise the fire trespass program receives from law enforcement is making a huge difference in both the quality and quantity of our cost recovery efforts.”

BLM law enforcement’s commitment to fire investigation reaches far beyond agency boundaries. The Lower North Fork Fire, which ignited on March 26, 2012, in Jefferson County, Colorado, is an excellent example of interagency cooperation. The fire was caused by windblown embers from a prescribed burn conducted by the Colorado State Forest Service, and it scorched approximately 4,500 acres and resulted in three fatalities

and the loss of three structures. Jefferson County Sheriff Ted Mink stated, "In critical events, the demand for resources can quickly overwhelm an organization. Multiagency cooperation and collaboration is essential in dealing with the many tasks necessary to bring an incident to its conclusion. The investigation of the Lower North Fork Fire highlighted multiagency collaboration in merging arson investigators from the sheriff's office, BLM, and U.S. Forest Service to jointly determine the cause and origin of this devastating fire."

The investigation of human-caused wildland fire is an ever-evolving field. Investigators are constantly being challenged by new, unique, or often unassuming ignition sources, such as exploding targets, floating lanterns, and recreational shooting. BLM law enforcement is both willing and able to meet this challenge and work with both internal and external partners to promote the continued success of the agency's fire trespass program.

Responsibilities Grow for the Largest Permitted Event on BLM Land

Every year from the last week of August through Labor Day weekend, thousands of participants gather for the Burning Man festival held in the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area in the BLM-Nevada Winnemucca District. For the festival, participants create Black Rock City within the national conservation area. In 2012, the participant population peaked at 52,385 people, making Black Rock City the sixth largest "city" in Nevada.

Burning Man festival organizers must submit a special recreation permit to the BLM for event authorization. The purpose of the BLM permitting system is to satisfy recreational demand within allowable use levels in an equitable, safe, and enjoyable manner while minimizing adverse resource impacts and user conflicts. The Burning Man event is the largest permitted recreational gathering on public lands administered by the BLM.

The Burning Man event takes its name from the ritual burning of a large wooden effigy on the final Saturday before the event concludes. For the duration of Burning Man, participants live in a "temporary community dedicated to radical self-expression and self-reliance." Burning Man began on a San Francisco beach in 1986, and as it gained popularity and grew in size, it moved to the Black Rock Desert and BLM land in 1991. Estimated attendance in 1991 was 250 people. Since then, the number of attendees has grown to more than 50,000.

The BLM's managerial and law enforcement responsibilities have grown along with the Burning Man population. While the festival lasts only 8 days, the BLM's planning process for the 2013 festival began almost as soon as the one in 2012 concluded. For the 2012 event, 124 law enforcement officers were assigned from the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, Nevada Department of Public Safety, Pershing County, and Washoe County.

The BLM law enforcement staff detailed at the event faces many challenges. The closest town to the festival is Gerlach, Nevada, which has a population of approximately 217 people and only one motel and restaurant. The BLM law enforcement staff must frequently share rooms and bring enough groceries to last through the length of the detail. Because the event is held on a desert basin playa, the environment can be very challenging. During the day, dust storms can cause zero visibility, and the playa dust is so fine that it tends to work its way into everything from air filters on vehicles to firearms. Constant maintenance is required to keep equipment and vehicles functioning. During the evening, officers are bombarded by pedestrian traffic, "mutant" vehicles that expel incendiary devices, and theme camps/raves displaying high-powered strobe lights and playing loud music.

Black Rock City participants logistically organize the event within a pentagon enclosure, complete with city streets and designated camping areas. Participants are encouraged to trade supplies with each other, and only coffee and ice are for sale within the city. Community policing has become a key element of the BLM's law enforcement operation. Ranger patrols are highly visible throughout the city and the surrounding playa. In 2012, rangers provided assistance to 11,897 participants. Assistance ranged from summoning medical services to providing directions for participants that were lost in the playa.

As the sixth largest city in Nevada, Burning Man has its share of crime. In 2012, BLM law enforcement issued 365 federal violation notices, 253 of which were for controlled substances. BLM law enforcement personnel also teamed with state investigators to form an undercover team at the event. The undercover operation generated 11 cases involving the distribution or trafficking of controlled substances.





Agents Help Reduce Energy-Related Crimes

Over the past several years, oil and gas exploration and production has expanded in an attempt to meet the dramatically increased demand for domestically produced energy. Royalty collection on oil and gas resources is the second largest source of income for the federal government. Due to the value of the products and the significant royalties owed to the government from access to these federal resources, the DOI's energy resources continue to be vulnerable to fraud, theft, vandalism, and other crimes.

The Office of Law Enforcement and Security's Special Investigations Group (SIG) was created in 2009 in response to an increase in awareness of actual and potential theft of federal minerals. The group reports to the Office of Law Enforcement and Security Deputy Director and consists of a chief and three special agents stationed in Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

The DOI's energy production and royalty collection programs are exceedingly complex. In order to address the technical nature of energy-related investigations, the SIG agents have specialized training and experience, which provides them with the capability to respond more effectively to alleged fraud and other crimes concerning environmental, development, production, reporting, and royalty issues. Working closely with many internal and external partners, SIG agents conduct federal oil and gas criminal and civil investigations, including those involving false reporting and theft of oil, gas, and equipment.

The SIG works closely with agency management and resource specialists who are responsible for leasing and oversight of onshore mineral production. BLM inspection and oversight efforts are important functions that help ensure the government collects the royalties it is due. BLM law enforcement officers, petroleum engineering technicians, and petroleum engineers are the first line of detection for identifying and reporting suspected leasing and production fraud. Through the performance of their investigative activities, SIG agents have identified numerous programmatic and systematic issues that have been referred to BLM management.

SIG agents also routinely work with other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and DOI Office of Inspector General's Energy Investigations Unit (EIU). The SIG has established a strong working relationship with the EIU. Agents from the two programs work jointly on onshore energy investigations, with proven success due in part to the free flow of information. According to EIU Director Keith Kuczka, "The OIG's Energy Investigations Unit and the BLM's Special Investigations Group continue to strengthen a relationship in which continued collaboration and communication will increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of both units. Our joint efforts to investigate allegations of fraud and other crimes help the BLM inspection and enforcement program through deterrence and ensure that the federal government receives the royalties it is owed."

Results of the teamwork between the SIG and EIU are noteworthy. One such investigation involved the theft of oil resulting from intentionally altered tank valves. The U.S. Attorney's Office declined prosecution, and the case was referred to the BLM for administrative action. Two companies settled with the Department, resulting in the recovery of more than \$2.1 million.

Another case, which originated in New Mexico and was jointly investigated by the SIG and EIU, involved the underpayment of royalties and false reporting. The investigation resulted in the company paying \$313,200 in civil penalties, as well as \$234,775 in royalties, plus interest. In addition, the company and its subsidiaries were debarred, which prohibits them from purchasing or producing federal oil and gas leases.

The SIG also works closely with the Office of Natural Resources Revenue's Office of Enforcement, which has the authority to issue civil penalties under the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act. The Office of Enforcement also has a solid working relationship with the DOI Office of Inspector General's Recovery Oversight Office, which can administer suspensions and debarments.

Finally, SIG agents have fostered strong working relationships with the U.S. Department of Justice. Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda Rocque with the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Colorado stated, "Through the establishment of the Special Investigations Group, the BLM has committed experienced investigators to the very complex field of oil and gas crime. The U.S. Department of Justice relies upon the investigative skills

of those special agents to help prosecute fraud and false claim violations related to energy development." The involvement of the Department of Justice has a deterrent effect on industry that results in improved compliance.

In the short time since its establishment, the SIG program has taken on substantial investigative responsibilities in the complex field of energy development and production related to public lands and resources. It is anticipated that the workload of SIG agents will grow as the demand for energy continues to increase. As such, the potential for theft, fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement will magnify. It is a goal of the SIG program to continue to work in conjunction with both internal and external partners to reduce energy-related crimes and help strengthen the DOI's energy production and accountability programs.





Featured District

Southern Nevada District

When Elvis Presley sang the song “Viva Las Vegas,” he only mentioned Las Vegas’ main attraction. However, surrounding the casinos and the City of Las Vegas are public lands administered by the BLM’s Southern Nevada District Office, which manages 3.3 million acres of the Mojave Desert in Clark and Nye Counties.

The Southern Nevada District contains 2 national conservation areas, 21 wilderness areas, and 22 areas of critical environmental concern. The district includes three field offices: the Red Rock/Sloan Field Office, Las Vegas Field Office, and Pahrump Field Office. The public lands managed by the district are home to 10 endangered and 8 threatened species. In addition, a national forest, national recreation area, and wildlife refuge share boundaries with these BLM lands.

Recreational and commercial activities abound in the Southern Nevada District. The public can enjoy a wide variety of recreational opportunities, including sightseeing, off-highway vehicle activities, photography, hiking, and horseback riding, while finding a little bit of solitude away from the crowds and traffic of the city. The district permits 17 off-highway vehicle races and several running and cycling events each year. Nevada is synonymous with mining. There are 4,385 active mining claims and 119 active mineral materials operations within the district. Mineral materials include sand, gravel, and gypsum which support the construction industry in Las Vegas.

One of the many challenges facing the district’s BLM law enforcement staff is urban interface with public lands. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Clark County had a population of 1,951,269 in 2010, and an estimated 37.3 million people visit the city annually. The growing population and expansion of the Las Vegas metropolitan area has resulted in increased environmental crimes on public lands. On a daily basis, rangers encounter trash dumping, unauthorized motor vehicle use, and shooting in closed areas. District rangers help ensure the public recreates in a responsible manner and that natural resources are protected.

Red Rock Canyon

In sharp contrast to the casinos, resorts, and bright lights of Las Vegas, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area entices visitors with the opportunity to recreate outdoors. It is an urban national conservation area, located just 17 miles from the Las Vegas Strip. Red Rock Canyon was established in 1990 and encompasses 195,819 acres. Two wilderness areas and a herd management area are located within Red Rock Canyon. Red Rock Canyon is also home to a variety of wildlife, including bobcats, mountain lions, desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, and mule deer.

Four state highways pass through Red Rock Canyon, and two communities are completely surrounded by it. The area around the visitor center and the 13-mile scenic drive are visited by an estimated one million tourists and recreational visitors each year. People come to Red Rock Canyon to hike, jog, picnic, bike, rock climb, take scenic photographs, and get married.

Rangers patrolling Red Rock Canyon encounter a wide variety of crimes and public safety issues. A large number of recreational users jog or bicycle on the highways and scenic drive. Traffic enforcement is a continual, yet essential, challenge for BLM rangers. Visitors who are injured, stranded, or lost in Red Rock Canyon’s back country require considerable resources and a coordinated rescue effort with



the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's (LVMPD's) Air Support Unit and Search and Rescue Unit. Approximately 80 search and rescue operations are conducted each year by the LVMPD Air Support Unit with assistance from BLM rangers.

Resource Protection

Law enforcement staffing for the Southern Nevada District includes 1 chief ranger, 2 supervisory rangers, 13 rangers, 2 special agents, and 1 law enforcement assistant. Special agents assigned to the district investigate a wide variety of crimes involving archaeological and paleontological resources, mining fraud, marijuana cultivation, and human-caused fires. The special agents also serve as terrorism liaison officers and work closely with the Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center.

The district is home to a wide variety of archaeological and paleontological resources. District law enforcement staff help protect more than 9,000 archaeological sites that have been documented in the district. Archaeological sites include everything from Native American rock art panels to artifacts left behind by pioneers and miners in the 1700s and 1800s. In addition, the Las Vegas Wash contains hundreds of sites bearing fossilized bones from animals that lived during the ice age, including fossilized remains of mammoths, bison, camels, and horses.

In 1997, in response to rising environmental and public safety concerns from the expanding population of the metropolitan area, the district created supplemental rules that restrict unauthorized off-road vehicle travel, camping, and shooting.

Partnerships

In October 1998, the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act became law, allowing the BLM to sell designated public land parcels in and around the Las Vegas metropolitan area. A portion of the proceeds from these land sales are designated to fund conservation initiatives. The conservation initiatives allowed the Southern Nevada District to add four rangers, a special agent, and a special assistant U.S. attorney to the district's table of organization. Funding also allowed other federal land management agencies to hire additional law enforcement officers. As a result, law enforcement officers from the BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service combined to form

a law enforcement team under the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP). Officers frequently patrol partner agency lands and target problem areas during saturation patrols.

One of SNAP's greatest successes is the cleanup of the BLM's Sunrise Management Area, just east of Las Vegas. The management area was plagued by motor vehicles travelling off designated routes, gang activity, shooting in closed areas, drug use, and sex crimes. It was also a popular area for burning stolen vehicles. Beginning in 2006, the SNAP law enforcement team conducted multiple saturation patrols of the area. The first patrol resulted in 306 violation notices and 14 arrests. Subsequent years saw more patrols along with additional funding, which was used for cleanup, fencing, and barrier projects in the area. As a result of these efforts, crime in the Sunrise Management Area decreased, and the number of recreational visitors increased.

The Southern Nevada District's law enforcement officers have created many partnerships with local and federal agencies. The largest partnership is with the LVMPD, the primary local law enforcement agency for Clark County and the City of Las Vegas. Rangers and LVMPD officers frequently work together in the urban interface and remote areas of Clark County. Detectives assigned to LVMPD's Auto Theft Detail have partnered with BLM special agents and rangers to investigate and prosecute individuals who are either disposing of stolen vehicles on public land or committing insurance fraud by burning vehicles on public land. When someone vandalized several panels of rock art in Red Rock Canyon, the BLM case agent teamed up with detectives from LVMPD's Gang Diversion Unit. During a multiweek investigation, detectives were able to identify and arrest a suspect who was prosecuted federally for violating the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. In addition, LVMPD has provided BLM officers with training in a variety of topics ranging from gunshot wound care to gang identification.

Law enforcement officers in the Southern Nevada District have also partnered with non-law enforcement agencies. Rangers have worked with the Clark County School District to provide educational and outreach opportunities for local school children. Rangers visit schools and interact with children in a variety of ways, from talking about BLM career opportunities and federal law enforcement to teaching children how to camp using principles of outdoor ethics.



Featured Awards

Ranger Michael Dodson from the Colorado River District in Arizona was awarded the Mothers Against Drunk Driving BLM Officer of the Year Award for his outstanding efforts in the investigation and apprehension of drivers and operators under the influence. Ranger Dodson made 16 operating a vessel under the influence arrests and 3 driving under the influence arrests in 2011.

Special Agent Bradley Kent and his team members were recognized with an Outstanding Marijuana Investigative Effort Award during the 2012 National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program Awards Dinner held in Washington, DC. Agent Kent is assigned to Narcotic Task Force Team 9, a marijuana investigation and eradication team. Operation Mountain High was an organized crime drug enforcement task force investigation that focused on drug trafficking organizations who conducted illegal marijuana cultivation operations on public lands managed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. Led by Special Agent Kent, Team 9 began investigating a marijuana cultivation and distribution organization in January 2010. In 2012, Team 9 applied for and received a Title III wiretap warrant. Information gained from the warrant provided information to ongoing investigations in multiple states. The investigative efforts of Team 9 resulted in 12 federal search warrants, 6 federal indictments, and arrests of all of the principle targets. In addition to the arrests and search warrants, Team 9 identified assets owned by the primary suspect and his associates, resulting in seizures nearing the value of \$750,000, which included a vintage Volkswagen Bus collection and a commercial business property. The tireless investigative efforts of Special Agent Kent and Team 9 resulted in the complete dismantlement of a highly profitable marijuana trafficking organization.

Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge Steven Martin was recognized by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico with the Award for Excellence in Investigations. These awards are chosen annually by assistant U.S. attorneys for the best cases brought through the district by federal agencies. Martin's case involved the conviction of 2 men who violated the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, which resulted in the recovery of more than 1,700 artifacts.

Ranger Larry Ramirez from Arizona's Gila District was awarded the Top Fitness award for Region 5. With a score of 475 on the annual Physical Efficiency Battery, Ranger Ramirez earned the best recorded score of the entire Region 5 law enforcement staff.

Ranger Chad Robinson from Arizona's Gila District was awarded the Top Shot award for Region 5. With a score of 738, Ranger Robinson earned the highest combined shooting score of the entire Region 5 law enforcement staff.

Region 1 and representatives from participating agencies were recognized with an Outstanding Marijuana Investigative Effort Award during the 2012 National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program Awards Dinner held in Washington, DC. Region 1 participated in Operation Mountain Sweep, which was a public lands marijuana eradication initiative launched in early 2012 to bring national attention to the public safety concerns and environmental damage surrounding the widespread cultivation of marijuana by drug trafficking organizations in the Western United States. U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Districts of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington participated in the 8-week multiagency and multistate marijuana operation. Operation Mountain Sweep eradicated more than 726,000 marijuana plants on public lands in the seven states. In the Eastern District of California, 26 defendants were indicted following arrests at the marijuana grow sites. Operation Mountain Sweep was carried out by the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations directorate, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state and local law enforcement agencies. In California, this included the California Department of Justice, California National Guard, and sheriffs' departments in several counties.

The **Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Interagency Law Enforcement Team** received a DOI Partners in Conservation Award. Since 2004, the team has interacted with the community and other public organizations to advance recreational opportunities and promote land management careers, public education, and protection of nearly 8 million acres of public lands in Clark County, Nevada. The partnership combines coordinated law enforcement activities with education to mitigate the impacts of rapid urban growth on public lands, including commercial dumping, litter, illegal off-highway vehicle damage, environmental crimes, archaeological theft, vandalism, and drug harvesting.

2012 Retirees

Ranger Lynn Miracle retired from the BLM law enforcement program in August 2012 after a 20-year law enforcement career. Miracle was born in Boise, Idaho, and attended Idaho State University. He began his career with Idaho Parks and Recreation and was a park manager in McCall, Idaho, for 9 years. He began his career with the BLM as a law enforcement technician in the Idaho State Office. His first ranger position was with the Boise District where he spent 12 years before taking the Lakeview District ranger position in Oregon. He was stationed there for 2 years before taking the ranger position in the Vale District in Oregon where he finished his law enforcement career.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security National Training Coordinator Steven Perry retired in May 2012 after serving as the coordinator at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia since August 2008. Perry began his law enforcement career in 1974 with the Madison Police Department in Wisconsin. After graduating from law school in 1981, he practiced criminal defense law for 6 years before returning to law enforcement. His federal law enforcement career included time as a law enforcement officer and special agent with the U.S. Forest Service, a Regional Chief of Refuge Law Enforcement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a senior legal instructor at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. He has retired to enjoy the company of his lovely wife Pat, his three motorcycles, and four dogs in Georgia.

Region 3 Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Pirtle retired in January 2012 after 26 years of distinguished federal service, 21 of which were spent with the BLM's law enforcement program in Oregon, Nevada, and Utah. After time in the U.S. Army as a military policeman, Pirtle attended Northern Arizona University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in forestry in 1982. In 1985, he obtained his first federal law enforcement position as a deputy with the U.S. Marshals in the Los Angeles Field Office. In 1990, Pirtle was hired as a special agent with BLM-Oregon. In 1996, he transferred to BLM-Nevada, where he worked as a special agent for nearly 9 years. In 2005, Pirtle became the Special Agent-in-Charge for Nevada, and in July 2010, he was promoted to the Region 3 Special Agent-in-Charge. During his time in Nevada and Region 3, Pirtle participated in 16 Burning Man events, his last 5 as the officer in charge. Pirtle and his wife plan on relocating to Arizona to enjoy retirement and spend more time with family and friends.

Ranger Carman Prisco retired in December 2012 after 31 years of federal service. He most recently served as the field staff law enforcement ranger stationed with the Alturas Field Office in California. Ranger Prisco began his career with the National Park Service in 1980 as a seasonal firefighter at Redwood National Park. He then attended a law enforcement academy in Santa Rosa, California, in 1981 and was hired back at the Redwood National Park as a seasonal ranger. Prisco took a permanent position at Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi in 1984. Before transferring to the BLM in 1991, he worked at national parks across the nation. Ranger Prisco was the second ranger assigned to the old BLM Susanville District in California and the first assigned to the Alturas Field Office. Ranger Prisco consistently volunteered for various assignments, including those at Klamath Falls, Ward Valley, and the Imperial Sand Dunes. Ranger Prisco demonstrated an enormous amount of tolerance, restraint, and professionalism throughout his career. As one of the BLM's first field training officers, his confident, encouraging, and patient personality set a higher standard for new rangers to emulate during their careers.

Ranger Phil Rheiner retired from the BLM law enforcement program in May 2012 after a 20-year law enforcement career. Rheiner was born in Cañon City, Colorado, and attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, earning a degree in forestry and natural resource management. He began his BLM law enforcement career as a student in a cooperative education program with the Tucson Field Office. His first official duty station was with the Kingman Field Office in Arizona where he spent 4 years before taking the Tillamook field staff position with Oregon's Salem District. He was stationed there for 16 years before his retirement. Rheiner was selected as the 2012 Ranger of the Year. He is currently continuing his federal service as the Assistant Field Manager in charge of recreation operations in the BLM's Grants Pass Interagency Office in Oregon.

Ranger Marie Tuxhorn retired after completing 29 years of federal service. Ranger Tuxhorn began her federal career with the National Park Service before joining the BLM at the Monticello Field Office in Utah. She remained in Monticello until her retirement, protecting employees, visitors, and the numerous archaeological sites located throughout the area. Ranger Tuxhorn was a lynchpin in the Utah law enforcement program and was considered an expert on archaeological resources. This expertise was critical during

the Cerberus Action investigation. She was instrumental in many areas during the multiyear investigation, including surveillance, interviews, and search warrants. Ranger Tuxhorn also volunteered and was selected for a 3-year term as the field ranger representative to the State Chief Ranger Leadership Team. This selection demonstrated her leadership skills and knowledge of BLM law enforcement. Ranger Tuxhorn had an extraordinary career, and her passion for protecting the public lands of southeast Utah will be missed.

Ranger Jerald (Jerry) Vanderpool retired from the BLM in 2012 with more than 30 years of service to the United States. Vanderpool began his federal career in 1980 with the U.S. Forest Service before moving on to work for the General Services Administration. In 1992, Vanderpool began his BLM law enforcement career with Arizona's Yuma and Lake Havasu Field Offices. From the Lake Havasu Field Office, Vanderpool transferred to what is now the Southern Nevada District Office where he spent the remainder of his career. He was the last ranger to live within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and spent almost a decade patrolling the Sunrise Management Area and Las Vegas Valley. Vanderpool plans to spend his first 6 months of retirement travelling.



How to Apply for Jobs with the BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security

Vacancies for law enforcement ranger and special agent positions with the BLM can be found online at www.usajobs.gov, by contacting your nearest BLM office and asking to speak with a law enforcement ranger, or by visiting www.blm.gov.

Entry-level trainee law enforcement ranger positions start at the GL-5 level, with the majority of positions being in the southern desert areas. Previous law enforcement experience may qualify an applicant for entry at the GL-7 or GL-9 levels. The law enforcement ranger series has a promotion potential as high as GS-13.

The BLM has less than 100 special agents, which means the positions are extremely competitive and highly desired. Only the most qualified applicants are selected. Special agent positions start at the GS-11 level, but previous law enforcement experience may qualify an applicant at the GS-12 level. The special agent series has promotion potential as high as GS-15.

BLM rangers and special agents are subject to random drug testing. In addition, the work generally involves working nights, weekends, holidays, and extended shifts during special events or unplanned operations. The qualifications for entry into the BLM law enforcement program are rigorous. Applicants must be able to meet all of the following:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Pass an extensive background investigation, drug test, physical fitness test, and medical exam.
- Hold a valid state driver's license and be capable of operating motor vehicles or special purpose law enforcement vehicles of various types, including four-wheel-drive and all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, and small watercraft.
- Not have reached your 37th birthday at the time of appointment or, if older than 37, have prior experience in a qualifying federal law enforcement position.
- Be able to safely use firearms, nonlethal weapons, and control tactics in the conduct of law enforcement duties.

If selected for a law enforcement position, you will be required to:

- Successfully complete the 16-week Land Management Police Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the BLM's Field Training and Evaluation Program if you are a ranger.
- Successfully complete the 11-week Criminal Investigator Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center if you are a special agent.
- Successfully complete a minimum of 40 hours of BLM law enforcement in-service training annually.
- Meet recurring firearms and control tactics training and qualification standards.
- Complete periodic medical and physical fitness testing.
- Maintain a favorable background investigation.
- Maintain a delegation of law enforcement authority.
- Wear the official law enforcement uniform if you are a ranger.



The mention of company names, trade names, or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the federal government.

